WHISTLE!

SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

Story & Art by

Daisuke Higuchi

volume **4**

WHISTLE!

Vol. 4
RE-START

STAGE.27
RE-START!
page 7

STAGE.28
The Man Who Calls Forth the Storm?!
page 29

STAGE.29
Climb Over the Wall!
page 49

STAGE.30
Born Again Josui Soccer Team Begins!!
page 69

STAGE.31
Practice Match
page 91

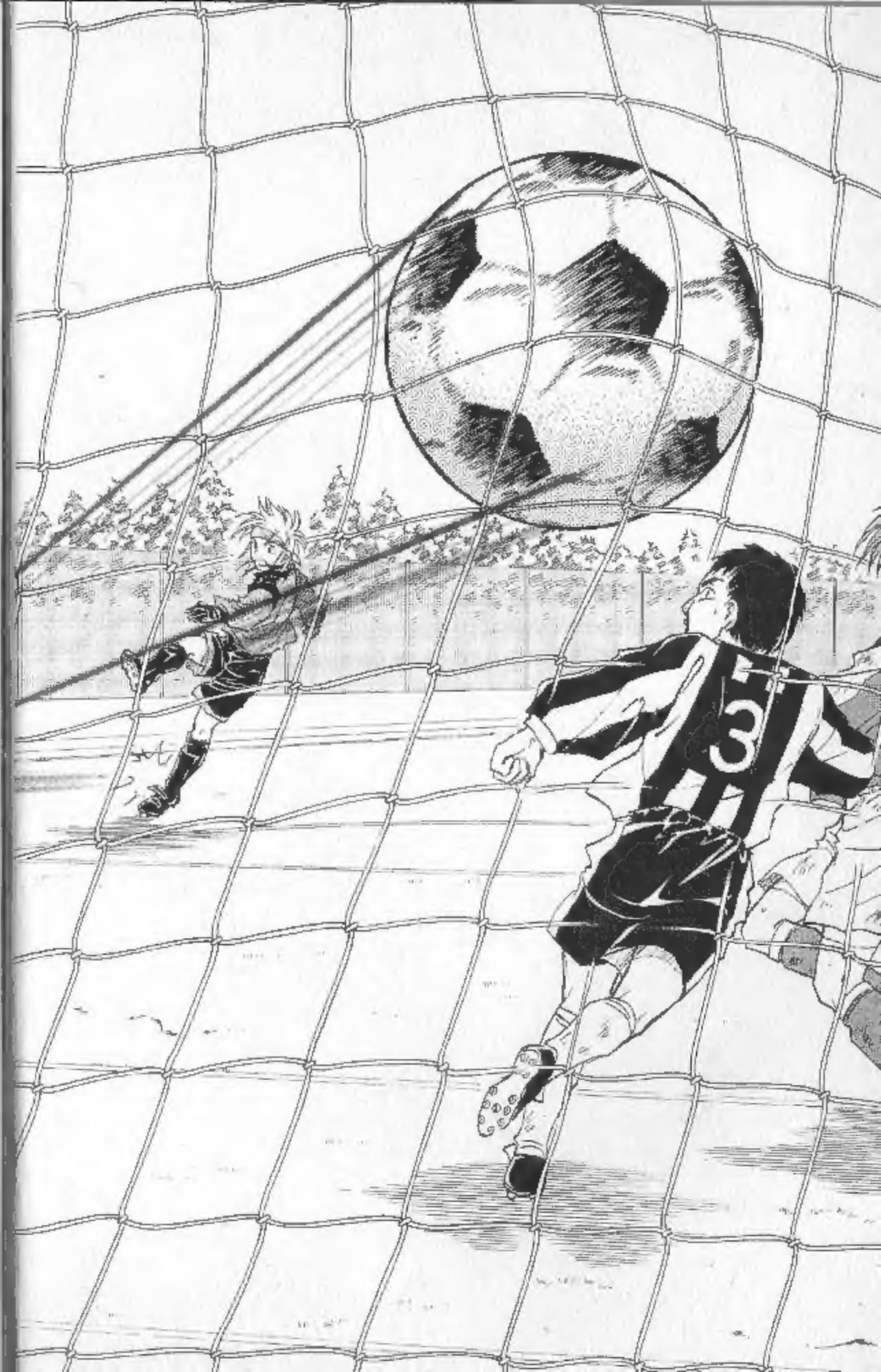
STAGE.32
Moon After the Rain
page 113

STAGE.33
Trial!
page 133

STAGE.34
Be True to Yourself
page 153

STAGE.35
Training Camp for Each!
page 173

STAGE.27 RE-START!



yAAaayyyyy

THERE'S KAZA!

AND OYASSAN, TOO...

THERE'S KŌ...

I'VE GOTTA HURRY UP.

IT'S RE-STARTING.

GO BACK UP!

BUT WHAT'S HE SAYING?

AND SHIGE.

THE GOAL MAKES IT 2 TO 2!!

YAAYYYY

JOSUI

RUN!

MOVE!

GO THERE.

...SCORE ONE...

... MORE TIME!!

I'VE GOT TO... DEFEND THIS ATTACK, AND...

I... I HAVE TO HURRY.

EVERYONE'S GOING BACK...

BUT I FEEL SO DEAD ...

I SAID "MOVE!"

YOU STUPID LEGS!

AND I JUST NEED ONE MORE SCORE...

MOVE!

BUT MY LEGS...

...THEY'RE NOT MOVING...

JUST ONE MORE POINT...

MUSASHINOMORI
JOS
2 FIRST HALF
1 SECOND HALF
3 TOTAL
0
2

TA-WHEEEEEE

HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH A THING NOW?

THAT'S TERRIBLE.

NO MATTER HOW...

YOU KNOW IT'S MEANINGLESS UNLESS YOU WIN.

HOW DARE YOU?

TOSU

NO ONE WILL REMEMBER ANYTHING EXCEPT THAT YOU LOST.

"IT WAS A GOOD MATCH" WILL NOT BE RE-CORDED.

...GOOD THE GAME WAS, OR HOW WELL YOU PLAYED, IF YOU LOSE... IT'S ALL OVER.

IT WAS A GOOD MATCH.

THAT SAID, YOU SHOULD KNOW ...

JUST GO!

WITH SOCCER ...

SNIFFF

SOB...

SOB

SOB

JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH!

A VERY GOOD MATCH!

SOB SOB!!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM?

!

WHHHH!!

SOB...

WAHH...

SNIFF...

...PLAYED REALLY WELL...

YOU...

AND WE THOUGHT THIS WAS GOING TO .BE A SNAP.

I'M BEAT ...

FROM THAT MOMENT ON. .

BWAAHHHH

JUST ONE

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR VICTORY YOU ARE THE BEST.

BUT WAS THERE ANY GAME THAT PROVED A STRUGGLE?

DURING AN INTER-VIEW WITH THE LOCAL NEWS-PAPER

MUSASHINOMORI NEVER ALLOWED ANOTHER OPPONENT TO SCORE. STRONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE. THEY WON THEIR DISTRICT PRIMARIES THEN WENT ON TO WIN THE TOKYO CHAMPIONSHIP

THAT'S WHAT HE SAID. BUT I HEARD THAT MUCH LATER.

OUR FIRST MATCH OF THE DISTRICT PRIMARY AGAINST JOSUI. ONCE WE BEAT THEM, WE KNEW WE COULD TAKE ON THE REST

KLAP KLAP

C'MON. DID THEY REALLY THINK THEY COULD BEAT MUSASHI-NOMORI?

KLAP KLAP

THEY'RE CRYING. THEY MUST REALLY HATE LOSING

KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

NOW GO!

EACH OF YOU, THINK ABOUT WHAT I JUST SAID!

YOU BARELY WON THAT MATCH.

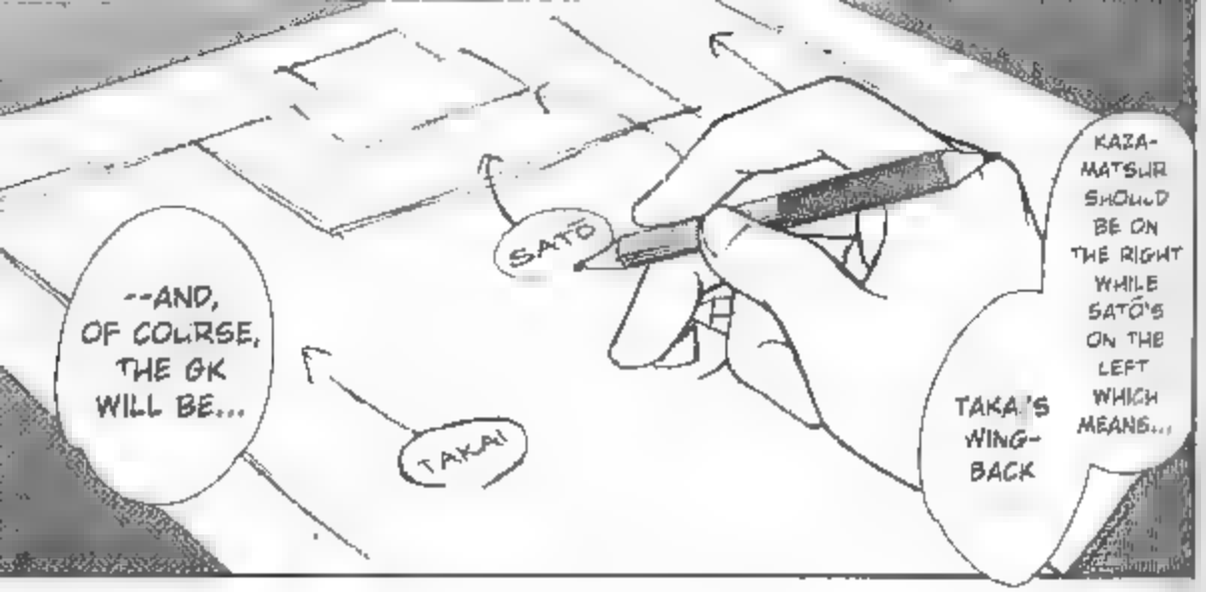
THEIR HOT SUMMER IS ALREADY JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

FOR JOSU., THE SPRING CHAMPION-SHIP HAD ENDED

THEY LOST THE R FIRST MATCH OF THE DISTRICT PRIMARY..

BUT EVEN THOUGH THEY LOST, THEY CAN'T CRY OVER IT FOREVER.

AGAINST MUSASHI-NOMORI, 2 TO 3


--AND, OF COURSE, THE GK WILL BE...
SATŌ
TAKAI
TAKAI'S WING-BACK
KAZA-MATSUR SHOULD BE ON THE RIGHT WHILE SATŌ'S ON THE LEFT WHICH MEANS...

STAGE.28
The Man Who Calls Forth the Storm?!

IMAGINARY DRAWING OF A PARTY HELD FOR FRESHMEN BY MUSASHINOMORI'S FIRST-TIER SUBSTITUTES.

MUSASHINO'S FOREST IS THE CEMETERY OF THE SOCCER BOYS' DREAM. .
CURSED DOLLS' SOCCER HEAVEN, THE THIRD TEAM DREAMS ON SWEETLY.
"A TOMATO CAN NEVER BECOME A MELON."
TALKING ABOUT THE COACH, A DIVORCED MAN WITH THE DROOPING EYES.
WEEDING THE YOUNG MEN'S DREAMS, OH, OLD BACK....

ILLUSTRATED BY *MESO AIKO*

MUSASHINOMORI, TOO, IS FEELING INSPIRED.

YOU COULD HAVE SOME SOY MILK, IF YOU WANT

I'D OFFER SOME TEA, BUT UM, I JUST RAN OUT

HMM. I WOULD'VE THOUGHT HE'D HAVE SOCCER POSTERS ON THE WALL OR SOMETHING. OH, WELL.

SLURPp

UMMM. SURE.

I CAME HERE TO ASK

...IF YOU'D TAKE OVER AS COACH AT JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH...

SO, WHY ARE YOU HERE?

SLURPp

WOW IT'S PRETTY GOOD ♡

WELL, AS A MATTER OF FACT!

DUH

OH, RIGHT THE REASON

OH, IT'S YOU...

!

YOU'RE MS. KATORI, RIGHT?

HI.

OKAY OKAY. C'MON IN.

EVEN THOUGH THIS PLACE IS A PIG-STY

OYASSAN FROM THE FOOD STAND.

HOW DID YOU KNOW I LIVED HERE?

SIT DOWN. IF YOU CAN FIND AN EMPTY PLACE

OOOHHH

I'M SORRY.

I BEG YOU, PLEASE BECOME THE COACH...

AREN'T YOU THE COACH?

...

I'M JUST AN AMATEUR. THEY NEED SOMEONE BETTER.

I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM. UNTIL NOW.

ONLY IN NAME. AND NOT FOR LONG.

BUT THANK YOU ...

I CAN'T DO IT.

I...I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO TEACH THEM.

WHAT?

BUT AFTER YOU TALKED TO THEM.

... THEY DID SO MUCH BETTER.

BUT FIRST ...

ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO...

EXCUSE ME I HAVE TO GO TO WORK NOW.

BUT ...

THEY WERE TRYING SO HARD, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO.

BUT ...

AFTER THEIR LAST MATCH, THEY NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN DIRECT THEM, WHO CAN REALLY HELP THEM WIN.

AFTER SCHOOL HOURS.

Josui Junior High School

YOU MEAN MUSASHINOMORI? YEAH, CONSIDERING ALL THEIR FIGHTING ALMOST TORE THEM APART.

THE SOCCER TEAM HAD A REALLY CLOSE MATCH AGAINST THAT SUPER TEAM.

YAYYYY. TATSUYA ♡

YAYYYY. TATSUYA! ♡

WHAT A JERK.

WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH FEELING GOOD FOR A CHANGE?

LET'S FACE IT, WE LOST OUR FIRST MATCH. THEY'LL FORGET US PRETTY QUICK.

YEAH. BUT IT WON'T LAST

LOOK. I THINK WE'RE FAMOUS NOW.

PAT PAT

FORGET HIM. HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT YOU BUT I'M AVAILABLE.

NO WAY!

GO AWAY!

TAKE 'EM. THEY'RE YOURS

HEY CASANOVA. SHOULD I BE JEALOUS OF YOUR POPULARITY?

NEXT: THE FOUR TO FOUR MINI-GAME

HEY, YOUR FAN CLUB IS CALLING YOU.

I DIDN'T THINK HE'D REFUSE. MAYBE.. HE HATES SOCCER?

BUT I THOUGHT HE..

FWIP

TAP

KRUNCH

ALL RIGHT BUT HERE'S MY CELL PHONE NUMBER IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, PLEASE CALL 31 8357

Yūko Katori

SHŌ? HE'S A TRANSFER. CLASS 2-A.

UM, WHO'S THAT LITTLE GUY?

MAKE SURE YOU DO. AND NO KICKING.

OOOH

WHAT ABOUT TATSUYA?

YAK YAK

YEAH DEFINITELY BOYFRIEND MATERIAL. ♡

YAK

HE'S CUTE BUT HE'S MORE LIKE A LITTLE BROTHER THAN A BOY-FRIEND

HMMM. MAYBE I SHOULD BECOME HIS FAN

DIDN'T HE PLAY REALLY WELL IN THAT GAME THE OTHER DAY?

AND IF THE GAME HAD BEEN LONGER, THEY WOULD HAVE SCORED EVEN MORE

IT MAY HAVE ONLY BEEN BY ONE POINT, BUT IT WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH.

SO I NEED TO BECOME A BETTER PLAYER.

LOSERS DON'T GET TO PLAY AGAINST MORE OPPONENTS.

TWO WEEKS AGO, WE LOST AGAINST MUSASHINOMORI TWO TO THREE

EVERYONE SAID IT WAS A SHAME WE'D LOST AND TOLD US HOW WELL WE PLAYED AGAINST THEM.

HUH?

WHAT'RE YOU UP TO, SHŌ?

SOME-TIMES IT'S WORSE THAN BREAKING A BONE!

CARE-FUL WITH YOUR SPRAIN.

IT'S BETTER. I HARDLY FEEL IT NOW.

JUST THOUGHT I'D PRACTICE.

TATSUYA'S ACTING JUST LIKE A BROTHER-IN-LAW.

OKAY, LATER THEN. I'M GOING HOME TO REST

ANOTHER ONE? ALL RIGHT, I'M COMING

CAPTAIN, YOU'VE GOT A NEW TEAM APPLICANT WAITING

YAAAA! YOU'RE SO SCARING ME.

SHIGE!

SUICIDE?!

JUMPING IN

NO, DON'T.

THERE'S BEEN SO MANY CASES OF SUICIDE

DON'T KILL YOUR-SELF.

DON'T DO IT!

WHAM

SUICIDE?

NO!

FWIPPP

SO NOW WHAT? KICKING A BALL AGAINST THE WALL SHOULDN'T HURT ME

HMM?

LOST IN THOUGHT I FOUND MYSELF AT THE RIVER BED...

THAT'S OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM. WHAT'S HE DOING?

UNNHHHH

HE'S STARING AT THE RIVER REALLY STRANGE

NO NO. IT CAN'T BE. .

...SORRY.

AAHH-TCHOO!

FWOOOOMMMMM

I WAS THERE BECAUSE THIS BRIDGE'S VIEW INTRIGUES ME.

DEATH IS INEVITABLE BUT I SEE NO REASON TO HASTEN ITS COMING.

I WAS SO SURE YOU WERE TRYING TO KILL YOURSELF

MY CONCLUSION

WEIRD WHO TALKS LIKE THAT?

.. YOU UNFORTUNATELY TRIED TO "SAVE ME."

I WAS CONTEMPLATING THAT, WHEN..

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY SUICIDES HERE? WHY WOULD ANYONE CHOOSE TO DIE HERE?

YAHHH!!

SPLASHHHH

!!

AHHHHH!

...THE TEAM THAT KICKS IT INTO THE OPPONENT'S GOAL WINS.

SKRTCHH

TWO TEAMS OF 11 PLAYERS EACH KICK A BALL AND

SO USING THE COURT LIKE THIS...

!

IS THAT POSSIBLE?

SIMPLE. AND IT'S FUN?

LET'S DO IT THEN.

TRY IT. YOU'LL SEE.

YEAH. LOTS.

THAT'S WHY THERE ARE SO MANY SUICIDES HERE

THE RIVER IS ALSO UNEXPECTEDLY DEEP AND FLOWS QUICKLY. THE MAJORITY, EVEN 85% OF POOR SWIMMERS WOULD SURELY END UP DROWNING

CHAPTER

IT IS A SHORT WALK HERE FROM THE RAILROAD STATION JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR SOMEONE ALREADY SAD TO BECOME DEPRESSED AND, OF COURSE, THE RAILING'S SO LOW.

CHAPTER

AAAHHHHH

HMMMM

AND THAT, AFTER CAREFUL ANALYSIS, IS MY CONCLUSION.

SOCCER?

I ALWAYS PRACTICE SOCCER HERE.

HUH?

A THOUGHT CONCERNING YOU. WHY ARE YOU HERE?

WHAT?

SOCCER? WHAT IS THAT?

UM. MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE YOUR HANDS OUT OF YOUR POCKET

ER --

I AM FINE. JUST KICK!

IT'S HIS FIRST TIME MAYBE I SHOULD KICK WHERE IT'LL BE EASY TO CATCH.

IF YOU SAY SO.

KRAK!

OOPS! I KICKED TOO HARD.

SINCE WE'RE ONLY TWO, WE CAN ONLY PRACTICE PK, BUT...

THE KICKER HAS TO KICK THE BALL SOMEWHERE INSIDE THAT FRAME. THE GK WILL...

GK? THE ONE WHO "DEFENDS" THE GOAL?

YEAH. BASICALLY, THE GK USES HIS HANDS, LEGS, OR ANY OTHER PARTS OF HIS BODY TO STOP THE BALL.

QUITE ACCEPT-ABLE

D SADVANTAGED?

IN PK, THE KICKER IS MORE DIS-ADVANTAGED, SO I'LL PLAY THAT

VERY WELL. YOU KICK. I'LL STOP IT.

YEAH, BUT THE FRAME S PRETTY BIG AND THE BALL COULD BE KICKED ANYWHERE, SO IT'S NOT REALLY EASY

OF COURSE. THE GK KNOWS THE BALL IS COMING SOME-WHERE NEAR HIM, THUS IT'S EASIER TO STOP

EFFORT-
-LESS.

QUITE EASY.

I DON'T GET IT.

AND TOO SIMPLE TO BE FUN.

WHO THE HECK IS HE?

THUMP

THUMP

WHO IS

IMPOSSIBLE NOBODY COULD SLAP IT DOWN WITH THEIR FIST?

AGAIN.

SHH

WHOOMP

WHAMM!

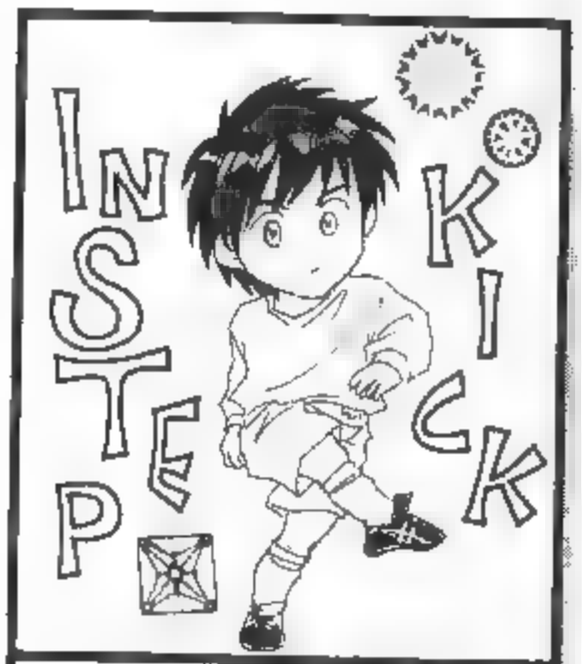
AGAIN!

HIS FIST?

THERE

STAGE.29

Climb Over The Wall!



INSTEP KICK

It's a type of kick that gives distance and power. It's used for shooting and long pass.

...CAN'T EVEN STEAL A POINT FROM...

...SOMEONE WHO HASN'T PLAYED SOCCER BEFORE.

GRIPP

WHILE...

IN REALITY, I...

SLAPP

AGAIN.

HUHH?

HOW ...

YOU WISH TO KNOW HOW AN AMATEUR CAN STOP THAT BALL?

THE DIRECTION OF YOUR EYES, THE TIP OF YOUR TOE AND THE WAY YOU SWING YOUR LEG

OBSERVING THE WAY YOU MOVE, I CAN SURMISE WHERE YOU'RE AIMING.

YOU WERE TOTALLY OBVIOUS.

WHAT AM I SAYING? I WAS JUST AN AMATEUR UNTIL RECENTLY.

SO WHEN DID I START THINKING I'M SO MUCH BETTER?

I'M SO STUPID. WITHOUT THINKING, I...

TOTALLY OBVIOUS?

AN AMATEUR LIKE HIM CAN STOP MY KICKS?

?

THAT WAS JUST DUMB LUCK. I COULDN'T DO IT ALL THE TIME.

I THOUGHT JUST BECAUSE I GOT TWO POINTS AGAINST KATSURŌ I WAS SUDDENLY A BETTER PLAYER.

EEEEKK

C'MON. IT'S ONLY BEEN TWO DAYS.

NAH. ONCE HE STOPPED HE COMPLETELY STOPPED

WHERE'S SHŌ? ISN'T HE COMING?

WHOOMP

...DAICHI W LL KNOW HOW TO STOP IT.

AND ...

AND IF I CAN'T CURVE IT...

I CAN'T GET IT TO CURVE RIGHT.

NUTS!

THUD

. SO WILL KATSURŌ ...

WILL YOU PLAY ANOTHER MATCH WITH ME?

CLASS 2-C.

DAICHI FUWA.

YOU'RE A JOSU JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT, RIGHT?

I'M SHŌ KAZAMA-TSURI OF CLASS 2-A.

SAME TIME THEN, THREE DAYS FROM NOW?

ALL RIGHT I WILL.

ER ...

THE KICKING LEG'S ANKLE MUST BE FIXED FIRMLY THEN...

THROWING BACK THE BODY, THE AXLE LEG MUST RELAX OR THE FEET WILL BECOME PIGEON-TOED.

THE FOOT MUST MEET THE BALL DIRECTLY IN THE MIDDLE

IT WAS ONLY DUMB LUCK THAT I DID SOMETHING UNEXPECTED. THAT'S WHY I SCORED AGAINST HIM

KATSURŌ COULD READ OUR MOVES BEFORE WE EVEN KICKED THE BALL. THAT'S WHY HE WAS ALWAYS IN THE RIGHT POSITION.

ALL I CARED ABOUT WAS SCORING. I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT HOW I SHOULD MOVE OR HOW I SHOULD KICK.

I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO KICK SO MY OPPONENT CAN'T READ ME.

AN FW ISN'T SUPPOSED TO AIM SO HE GETS STOPPED

WELCOME

BOOM

...SWING ALL THE WAY!

WHOOOMP

HEH.

I'VE GOT TO DO IT NO MATTER WHAT

IT TAKES A LOT OF TECHNICAL SKILL, BUT IF I MASTER IT I CAN SURPRISE HIM!

WHOOSH

KICKING THE BALL WITH THE INSTEP WILL COUNTER SPIN IT IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. THAT MEANS THE BALL WILL FLY OPPOSITE TO WHERE THE LEG IS FACING

OUT-FRONT-KICK.

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO SEE.

SŌ. COME WITH ME

OYASSAN! WAIT

DO YOU MIND LOOKING AFTER MY SHOP FOR A BIT?

AH, CHŌ, WHAT GOOD TIMING

DID IT WORK OUT WELL WITH THAT GOOD LOOKING TEACHER?

NO. I'M HEALTHY AS EVER

FWEEEPP

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HERE FOR A WHILE. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT'VE BEEN DEAD

...EVERY TIME HE ENCOUNTERS A PROBLEM HE COMES HERE TO PRACTICE.

THAT KID...

LOOK THERE

THE RIVER BED?

YOU TURNED HER DOWN?

...TO BECOME A COACH.

SHE TRIED TO CONVINCE ME.

...GIVES TRIALS ONLY TO THOSE WHO CAN OVERCOME THEM.

GOD ...

HOP

WHEN HE STARTED, HE WASN'T VERY GOOD

NO MATTER WHAT, HE NEVER GAVE UP.

GOOD EVENING.

IF YOU'RE NOT HONEST WITH HOW YOU FEEL, YOU'LL REGRET IT LATER

WHATEVER HAPPENED IN YOUR PAST MY FRIEND. I KNOW YOU CAN'T HAVE FORSAKEN SOCCER

...

IT WAS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.

PAK

HUH?

I KNEW YOU'D BE HERE.

EVERY-ONE?!

TATSUYA SAID YOU COULDN'T BE SITTING STILL AT HOME.

HOW?

...YOU?

SŌ...

...WHAT ABOUT ...

SLUMP

MAYBE IT'S WRONG FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME TO DREAM OF BECOMING A REAL SOCCER PLAYER.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

WHY CAN'T. .

. I DO IT RIGHT?

MY LEFT ANKLE S HURTING

A LOT.

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I KICK, IT DOESN'T CURVE WELL.

WHILE WE WERE PLAYING IT, IT WAS INCREDIBLY HARD AND I WAS DESPERATE ...

...BUT IT WAS FUN, WASN'T IT?

SKROOTCH

TAPE IT FIRMLY. IT WON'T HURT AS MUCH.

THANKS.

IT'S OKAY. SHOW ME YOUR LEG!

SORRY.

SOMEDAY, I HOPE TO TASTE THE JOY OF VICTORY.

EVEN THOUGH WE DIDN'T WIN.

JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU. THAT'S ALL.

SOUNDS GOOD.

WHO'S UP FOR A BREAK?

WE BOUGHT SOME JUICE AND TAIYAKI.

OH WE JUST CAME BY TO BOTHER YOU.

GOING ALREADY ?

BUT TO ACHIEVE VICTORY WE'VE GOT TO WORK HARD

WE WILL TASTE IT TRUST ME

FWISH

SHIGE, DON'T TAKE AWAY MY TAIYAKI

Y'KNOW THAT GAME THE OTHER DAY.

YOU HAVE ONE WITH CREAM?

I WANT THE CHEESE TAIYAKI.

I'LL TAKE THE TUNA WITH MAYONNAISE.

WHO'S GOT THE RED BEANS?

THE NEXT...

IF I CAN'T WIN AGAINST DAICHI...

...SOME-ONE WHO DOESN'T STOP UNTIL YOU SUCCEED.

YOU'RE

THEY ALL DO?

HE BELIEVES IN ME?

EACH WALL I CLIMB OVER LEADS TO THE NEXT JUST LIKE IT'S SUPPOSED TO

I PRACTICED UNTIL I COULD PLAY IN A MATCH AS A REGULAR, NOT A SUBSTITUTE

ONCE I STARTED TO PLAY SOCCER.

...I MADE FRENDS

BUT HIS LEG IS KICKING THE BALL FROM OUTSIDE TOWARD INSIDE

THE EYES ARE LOOKING LEFT.

THE LEFT IS A FEINT

IT WENT RIGHT.

WHOOMP

TTUUK

!

BOMMM

I WON'T WIN AGAINST KATSURŌ!

THUNK

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU TRY IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME GIVE UP

UNLESS YOU TRY, YOU NEVER KNOW IF THAT'S TRUE

KRAKKK

ANOTHER MATCH.

OCHH!

GOD GIVES TRIALS TO ONLY THOSE WHO CAN OVERCOME THEM, HUH?

DON'T ASSUME I'M ONLY OBSERVING!

DAICHI, THIS IS REALLY BOTHERING YOU.

FINALLY HAVING FUN?

I DO NOT GET BOTHERED.

HA HA HA HA

DO NOT LAUGH!

WHIIIPPPP

KWAAM

OUT-FRONT-KICK!!

I DID IT!!

IT... CURVED

FASCINATING.

HE MADE THE BALL COUNTER-SPIN!

IT CURVED?!

STAGE.30

Born Again

Josui Soccer Team Begins!!

The Host, Kō, is in business.

INSIDE KICK

Highly controlled, it is used for short pass or middle pass.

READ THIS WAY

HUH?

YAWNNNN

FUMP

MAYBE I AM, BUT YOU'RE PRETTY SHARP.

FWIP

WELL, IF YOU WANT TO THINK I'M SMARTER, GO RIGHT AHEAD.

NAH, THIS IS THE WAY IT IS NATURALLY

HEY SATŌ, ABOUT TIME YOU DID SOMETHING WITH YOUR HAIR

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

EIGHTH GRADER SHŌ HE'S TAKEN TIME-OFF DUE TO HIS INJURY

...

SHŌ, LET ME INTRODUCE OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS

SHIGE ...

SO. WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

WHAT IF WE JOINED A SCHOOL CLUB?

CHATTER

CHATTER

JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

DO YOU THINK I'M READY TO PLAY?

NO I WAS LETTING MY ANKLE HEAL

I THOUGHT YOU WERE ON VACATION.

ZZZZ

DON'T BOTHER ME. I'M TRYING TO SLEEP.

ZZZZZZ

BUT I FEEL YOU'RE MORE GROWN UP THAN ME LIKE YOU'RE SMARTER.

THAT'S WHY.

WELL, I KNOW WE'RE ALMOST THE SAME AGE.

SIGH ...

WHIP

AH!

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS ASK MY ADVICE? DO WHAT YOU WANT.

WHOA!
DON'T LECTURE ME
HA HA HA!
STUPID!
I'LL KILL MYSELF!
HE FLUNKED.
I WIN!
I LOST!
THUS, HE GOT THE NICKNAME, CRUSHER.
HE DESTROYED THE PRIDE OF MANY POOR STUDENTS.
JOSU NEVER HAD BOTH A GENIUS AND PROBLEM KID LIKE HIM BEFORE.

I'M DAICHI FUWA FROM CLASS 2-C
WHY'S HE HERE?
THE REASON I WANT TO JOIN IS.
BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM SO SCARY.
WHOA
I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS SO INCREDIBLE.

HE PUSHED ME DOWN THE RIVER.
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?
HOLD ON. I DIDN'T MEAN TO.
WHAT?
THAT'S SO DANGEROUS
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY, BUT I KNOW I'LL BEAT HIM RIGHT AWAY
THAT IS MY PLAN.
WHIP
...I WANT TO KNOW WHY THIS GUY'S SMILING.
JUST THAT.

EACH OF YOU, INTRODUCE YOURSELF
HE'S SO SMALL. SURPRISING HUH?
OOOO OOHH
WOW, SHŌ'S THE ONE WHO SCORED BOTH POINTS.
SO MANY?

PAT
THERE'S ONE MORE EIGHTH GRADER
HERE HE IS
UM. I JUST REMEMBERED.
WE'VE GOT 19 NEW MEMBERS. FOURTEEN SEVENTH GRADERS AND FIVE EIGHTH GRADERS.
SAME GRADE AND I'M.
SEVENTH GRADER, SHIGERU YOSHIDA. I HAVE NO EXPERIENCE BUT I WANT TO JOIN YOUR GAME AGAINST MUSASHINOMORI WAS INSPIRATIONAL

DAICHI "THE CRUSHER" FUWA!!!
GAB GAB GAB
DAICHI!
PAT
YOU DON'T KNOW? RIGHT. YOU TRANSFERRED HERE.
CRUSHER?
HUH?

YUKI KOJIMA, CLASS 2-B.

SHE WANTS TO BE OUR MANAGER.

ACHOOO

SHE'S YOUNG BUT SHE COULD STILL BE GOOD

BOW

I AM SO PLEASED TO BE HERE

WHOA CUTE

(?)

WINK

SUCH LONG HAIR. LIKE A DOLL.

WHOA!

JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH'S SOCCER TEAM IS REALLY LOOKING GOOD

WE'RE GETTING LOTS OF NEW TEAM MEMBERS AND

SO THIS WAY?

TO GET MORE FRIENDS

BUT WHY?

...GOT TO WORK HARD, TOO.

AND I'VE...

YUKI

ANOTHER THING

I LOVE THE GAME ...

...AND I'D DO ANY-THING TO BE PART OF IT.

I PROMISE AS MANAGER TO DO MY BEST.

THAT'S WHY

GRIN

..TO HELP YOU WIN, I WANT TO BE YOUR MANAGER.

ENOUGH SILLINESS. IT'S TIME TO WARM UP.

WHAT'RE YOU WRITING?

I'M SO GLAD I DIDN'T QUIT

AH, FINALLY "WHISTLE!" HAS SOME CHARM.

SCRITCH

KRUNCH!

SO YOU'RE A GUY AFTER ALL, HUH?

ARE YOU BLUSH-ING!

C'MON STOP IT.

HEY, HEY.

LUB DUB

IT'S ALL RIGHT I'VE NEVER LET ANYONE KNOW HOW MUCH I LOVE SOCCER.

RIGHT. ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS SOCCER.

KNOCK IT OFF

SO WHAT IF SHE'S IN MY CLASS?

TATSUYA, YOU'RE IN THE SAME CLASS WITH HER, RIGHT?

I DIDN'T KNOW YUKI LIKED SOCCER. IF WE KNEW, WE WOULD'VE ASKED HER TO BECOME OUR MANAGER A LOT SOONER.

I MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY, BUT I CAN BE YOUR MANAGER.

BUT AFTER THE MUSASHI-NOMORI MATCH, I KNEW I HAD TO HELP.

I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO THINK IT WAS JUST TO MEET GUYS.

WHAT SHE SAID .

IT'S MORE LIKE SHE WANTS TO PLAY THAN MANAGE US

YUKI KOJIMA, HUH. .?

EVERY-ONE DRINK WATER.

I ADDED SOME LEMON AND HONEY.

THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE IT FOR A CHANGE.

THANKS.

GIRLS ARE MORE CARING THAN GUYS.

WOW TASTE'S GREAT

TAKE IT

THANK YOU, MANAGER

Fight

WHOOSH

OH, GEEZ. GUYS CAN BE SUCH DOPES.

BECAUSE OF HER, THEY'RE PRACTICING SO MUCH HARDER

GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

OTHER TEAMS ARE REQUESTING TO PLAY WITH US SO PRACTICE IS GOING TO BE TOUGH.

IF THEY'LL LET US, I'M SETTING UP A RETREAT HERE AT SCHOOL FOR SOME HEAVY-DUTY PRACTICE.

...I'VE GOT PRIVATE CLASSES.

CAPTAIN, IT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA, BUT...

IT'S GONNA BE SO HARD.

YUCK

OOOCHH

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME BEFORE THE SUMMER SEASON CHAMPION-SHIP

IN ADDITION,

PLUS, IT'S MORE IMPORTANT NOW SINCE WE HAVE MORE PLAYERS

...BUT YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE. IT'S HOW WE NURTURE TEAM PLAY.

IF YOU HAVE OTHER OBLIGA-TIONS, I'LL LET YOU GO HOME...

SOME PEOPLE THOUGH NEVER CHANGE.

HUFF

HUFF

EVERY-ONE LISTEN UP.

HERE.

THANKS

WORK BETTER.

WORK STRONGER.

AND NEXT TIME WE'LL BEAT MUSASHI-NOMORI.

OOPS.

WHO

YOU!

SLAP

WE EIGHTH GRADERS HAVE NEXT YEAR, BUT KATSURŌ'S A NINTH GRADER. HE RETIRES THIS YEAR.

SO THE SUMMER CHAMPION-SHIP'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO DEFEAT H.M.

HEY.

YEAH.

PRETTY DARING WORDS TO SAY, MASATO.

KNOCK IT OFF.

THAT KINDA TALK MAKES US WANT TO WORK HARDER.

WHAT A SPEECH, HUH?

SO YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU'VE BEEN INSULTED?

YOU CREEP!

OH? DID I RUB YOU THE WRONG WAY?

HOW DARE YOU...

... TALK LIKE THAT!

I'VE GOT ENERGY JUST BURNING FOR A FIGHT. SO C'MON, BRING IT ON.

KRAK KRAK KRAK

OH, GOOD... A FIGHT.

...

IT'S A PROBLEM WITH THOSE GUYS WHO JUST THINK SOCCER IS COOL.

BLAST!

YOU'RE NOT OUR BOSS WE QUIT.

KNOCK IT OFF, SHIGE

BIG TROUBLE HE'S REALLY STRONG

HUHH

GO!!

DON'T BOTHER WAITING FOR THE OFFICIAL PAPERS ..

WELL, I THOUGHT THERE'D BE NO CREEPY NINTH GRADERS TO REPORT TO. AND RIGHT NOW SOCCER IS IN.

AND PLAYING COULD MAKE ME POPULAR WITH GIRLS

WHO TOLD US SOCCER WAS THE HOT TEAM TO JOIN?

SOCCER IS SO NOT COOL.

HE'S JOKING. HOW DO WE WORK HARDER THAN THIS?

AREN'T YOU DOING THE SAME THING?

SQUIRT!

SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

YOU JOINED THE SOCCER TEAM ?

THAT'S WHY

DON'T BOTHER TO TALK SENSE TO SOMEONE WHO'S NEVER DONE ANYTHING SERIOUSLY.

SHŌ, LEAVE THOSE *IDIOTS* ALONE.

OOPS.

!

TRUNCH

WHOOSH

WHO ARE YOU?

IT'S OPEN.

KREEEKKK

RUUMMBLLLEE

COOL.

HERE! WE'VE FOUND THE SOCCER BALLS.

HERE'S A THANK YOU FOR..

.. EMBAR-RASSING US

KLIK KLIK

KRAAKK

WHAT'S THAT FOR?

WHA..?

SKRASH

UGH

KRNCH!

WHAP

CREEP!

JERKS LIKE YOU WHO INTENTIONALLY TRY TO DAMAGE BALLS

HAVE NO RIGHT TO PLAY SOCCER.

WHAK

WHOOOM

!

WHOOM

WHISSHHH

STAGE.31

Practice Match

OUTSIDE KICK

It is a type of kick that's intended to surprise the opponent. It is often used in crowded areas to make the passes like Wall Pass and Through Pass. Players can make this pass as they dribble the ball.

READ THIS WAY

AND I THOUGHT YOU QUIT THE TEAM.

HUH.

WHY WERE YOU IN THE TEAM ROOM AT NIGHT? IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE LOCKED

UMMM ... WE GOTTA GO BYE.

WELL... IF IT WASN'T YOU, UHH... FINE.

OR MAYBE YOU WANTED TO VENT YOUR ANGER BY CAUSING SOME DAMAGE, HUH?

NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS HAPPENED LATELY.

SHŌ? YOU WERE LISTENING?

TATSUYA

WHOOSH

JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

YOU DID THIS, DIDN'T YOU?

TATSUYA!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

NO WAY.

WHO ELSE THEN?

MAYBE YOU?

YOU LIAR!

DON'T PRETEND YOU DON'T KNOW!

YOU ATTACKED US IN THE TEAM ROOM LAST NIGHT.

I STILL WONDER WHO HE WAS

WITH ALL THAT TALENT, WHY DOESN'T HE JOIN THE SOCCER TEAM?

OF COURSE I WAS CLEARED OF ALL SUSPICIONS. BUT HIS IDENTITY IS STILL A MYSTERY

BECAUSE OF THAT MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UPPER CLASSMEN HAS BECOME LESS FRIENDLY

I ONCE THOUGHT SHIGE, WHO HAD QUIT THE TEAM, WAS HIM...

YEAH. HE'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

THINK SO? BUT PROBABLY NOT IN SUCH A ROUND-ABOUT WAY.

HA!

STILL, I'D BET OUR MYSTERY MAN LOVES SOCCER.

LOVES IT ENOUGH NOT TO TOLERATE HALF-HEARTED PLAYERS.

HIS APPROACH IS WRONG, BUT...

BUT A LONG TIME AGO IT DID.

I WAS A SEVENTH GRADER AND THE SOCCER TEAM WAS EVEN WORSE THAN WHEN YOU TRANSFERRED HERE.

MOST OF THE PLAYERS WEREN'T INTERESTED.

NO ONE KNOWS WHO HE REALLY WAS, BUT...

...HIS SKILLS WERE ASTONISHING.

BUT THE OTHERS THOUGHT HE WAS ME.

BUT A MYSTERIOUS PERSON CHALLENGED THE PLAYERS, AND HE BEAT THEM.

IT ISN'T A JOKE.

I UNDERSTAND HE'S GOT INCREDIBLE SKILLS. BUT .

TATSUYA...

IF IT WAS ME, I WOULDN'T HIDE MY IDENTITY. I'D FACE THEM HEAD-ON LIKE THE MIN-GAME THE OTHER DAY.

WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO THE PRACTICE MATCH...

WHOOOM

THE MORE WE PLAY OTHER TEAMS, THE MORE WE'LL LEARN OUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES. BESIDES THAT, PLAYING IS FUN.

TO INCREASE OUR EXPERIENCE BEFORE THE SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP, WE HAVE TO PLAY LOTS OF GAMES.

HM?

THIS ISN'T AN ALL DAY EVENT.

HEY ARE YOU EATING ON THE BUS?

I THINK THEY MADE IT TO THE ELITE EIGHT AT THE LATEST CHAMPION-SHIP

KRAKLE

WE'RE PLAYING KOKUBU JUNIOR HIGH. ARE THEY STRONG?

I'D LOVE TO MEET HIM.

WOULD BE REALLY GREAT ...

...IF I COULD PLAY SOCCER WITH HIM...

AH!

THERE YOU ARE!

OH, WELL.

WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE PRACTICE MATCH

YOU'RE AS CRAZY ABOUT SOCCER AS HE IS.

PWOOOSHHH

SORRY.

HURRY UP!

SINCE THEY REQUESTED THE PRACTICE MATCH. IT WOULD LOOK REAL BAD IF WE WERE LATE

TATSUYA AND SHŌ, WHAT'RE YOU WASTING TIME TALKING ABOUT?

YOU'LL MISS THE BUS!

UH HUH

I'M MR. AMAMIYA, THE KOKUBU JUNIOR HIGH COACH. YOUR PRESENCE IS WELCOME.

HOW DO YOU DO?

POK

POK

SAKA-MOTO. IMAI.

OUR TEAM MEMBERS WILL SHOW YOU AROUND

HIS LEG SEEMS CRIPPLED

I'M MS. KATORI, IN CHARGE OF THE TEAM. IT IS OUR PLEASURE.

HUMM...

SO, THEY'RE FROM JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH, HUH?

THIS WAY PLEASE.

YES, COACH.

SAKAMOTO

IMAI

YUKI, WOULD YOU LIKE SOME?

NOPE.

BONG

SORRY. IT'S REALLY TASTY.

TEACHER!

ARE YOU THE SOCCER TEAM FROM JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH?

YES.

WOW THE R GROUNDS ARE B GGER THAN OURS

KOKUBU JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL...

IS EVERY-ONE READY?

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE START

OH? THAT SMALL ONE REALLY?

THAT'S NO SURPRISE. WE USED TO BE LIKE THEM, TOO.

THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE THEY'D PLAY A GOOD GAME AGAINST MUSASHI-NOMOR

AND WE SHOULD ALSO WATCH OUT FOR ...

... THAT SMALL GUY, NO 9.

NO. 10 S JOSUI'S CONTROL TOWER. BE CAREFUL OF HIS THROUGH-PASS.

NO 10 AND THAT GK ARE THEIR BEST PLAYERS

IT ALL...

..BEGINS HERE.

BA BUMP

BA BUMP

BA BUMP

WHY AM I ON THE BENCH?

HEY IT'S NOT MY FAULT DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT

YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED THE RULES AND YOUR POSITION HASN'T BEEN DECIDED YET

AT CRUCIAL MOMENTS HE CAN DO AMAZING THINGS. HE ALSO SETS THE MOOD FOR THE TEAM. KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.

HE'S NOT EXCEPTION-ALLY GOOD BUT..

.. HOW SHOULD I PLAY IT?

...SO ONE DAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO CATCH UP TO MUSASHINOMORI.

ARGH! TOO BAD.

TOO SLOW...

JOSUI

OFFICIAL SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP.

THUMP

...ONE STEP AT A TIME.

SO IT'S.

IT SHOULD BE EVEN TOUGHER THAN THE SPRING CHAMPIONSHIP.

WE HAVE TO GET BETTER...

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PROVE OURSELVES IF WE WANT TO EVER PLAY MUSASHINOMORI AGAIN.

YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE A REGULAR? YOU CAN'T EVEN SCORE N A SIMPLE PLAY.

GRRRR

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

SHE REALLY LOVES SOCCER.

KOKUBU

0

0

REALLY BEAT, HUH?

THE BALL'S BEEN STOLEN AGA N

SO THE OPPOSING DF WILL EASILY CA'CH UP AND MAKE THE SHOOTING AREA A LOT NARROWER

HE'S TOO SLOW TO GET RID OF THE MARK AND ENTER THE SPACE.

HUH?

"SPACE" IS A SPOT WITHOUT OPPONENTS. IT'S EASIER TO TAKE THE FREE BALL INTO SUCH SPACE

CHANGE YOUR MOVES SWITCH TO AN OFFENSE MOVE FROM THE OUTS DE. DO A S DE-CHANGE.

NO! THEY KEEP SENDING THE BALL TO TATSUYA LIKE THAT'S THE ONLY THING THEY CAN REMEMBER TO DO

OOPS.

EVERYONE SUDDENLY STOPS WHEN TATSUYA, THE KEY TO OUR ATTACK, GETS STOPPED

SIDE CHANGE: WHEN THE "MARKS" ARE FOCUSED ON TATSUYA, A PLAYER BECOMES FREE ON THE SIDE

SQUOOSH

I...

MASATO, YOU CALL YOURSELF AN FW? YOU'RE NOT SEEING ANYTH NG HAPPENING AROUND YOU

HUH?

THUD

VERY GOOD TEAM.

BEST OF ALL, THEY SEEM TO ENJOY PLAYING.

THEY HAVE ISSUES TO RESOLVE, BUT...

THE R PLAY IS SMOOTH.

IS THAT TRUE?

I JUST WATCH THEM PRACTICE ON THEIR OWN.

TEE HEE

WHAT?

IF THAT'S SO, WE'LL HAVE TO WORK EVEN HARDER

WHAT? OH, NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL.

I'M AN AMATEUR. I CAN'T DIRECT THEM AT ALL.

YŪKO, HOW DO YOU COACH THEM?

YOU PLAYED WELL.

WE TRIED TO WIN, BUT...

WHAT? YOU DID?

WE WATCHED YOUR MATCH AGAINST MUSASHI-NOMORI

TOO WELL.

HUH?

UMM, YOU THINK YOU CAN INTRODUCE HER TO US?

YOUR MANAGER'S REALLY

I KNEW YOU'D BECOME STRONG PLAYERS AND I WANTED TO CHECK YOU OUT

I WAS THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED A PRACTICE MATCH WITH YOU GUYS.

WE'LL WIN THEN.

WE'LL DEFEAT YOU THEN.

WE'D LOVE TO PLAY AGAINST YOU AT THE SUMMER CHAMPION-SHIP

FORMER SHINKAWA DENKŌ'S SOUJŪ MATSU-SHITA?

SOUJŪ MATSU-SHITA ?!

ER... YES.

I LOOKED IT UP MYSELF. THAT'S HIM.

IF I WERE COACH I'D CHANGE SOME OF THE POSITIONS. THE CURRENT TOP TWO (NO. 11 AND NO. 9) ARE TOO SIMILAR. THERE'S NOT ENOUGH VARIATION IN THEIR OFFENSIVE MOVES.

BUT IF THE GK BECOMES FW, IT WOULD BE VERY INTERESTING.

JOSUI'S THE KIND OF TEAM THAT'LL BECOME VERY HARD TO BEAT ONCE THEY'VE GOT A GOOD COACH...

...HE COMPLETELY REJECTED THE IDEA. I THINK HE USED TO BE A FAMOUS PLAYER DURING THE ERA OF JAPAN LEAGUE.

I FOUND SOMEONE I THOUGHT WAS GOOD, BUT...

WE DO NEED A COACH, DON'T WE?

...

HE'S MORE THAN JUST AN ACQUAINT-ANCE

A... AMAMIYA, YOU REALLY KNOW HIM?

WHERE IS HE NOW?

KRUNCH

WHAT?

A STRANGE NAME, ISN'T IT?

SOUJŪ MATSU-SHITA

HMM. WHO IS HE?

I MAY KNOW HIM. I WAS IN JAPAN LEAGUE FOR A LITTLE WHILE MYSELF.

!

THEY'RE ALWAYS TRYING TO SELL ME NEWS-PAPERS

KREEEK

...I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM.

HOW COULD I FORGET?

FOR THE PAST 11 YEARS ...

...
TŌGO.

MATSU-SHITA.

LONG TIME NO SEE.

NOK NOK

YES?

I DIDN'T SEE IT START

RAINING ?

POK POK

STAGE.32 Moon After the Rain

'86 MEXICO WORLD CUP PRIMARY

DURING THE '64 TOKYO OLYMPICS, JAPAN'S SOCCER TEAM MADE IT TO THE BEST EIGHT. THIS PROMPTED JAPAN TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONWIDE "JAPAN SOCCER LEAGUE" IN 1965 TO "STRENGTHEN" JAPAN'S SOCCER TEAMS. ITS EFFECT WAS IMMEDIATELY SHOWN BY THE JAPAN TEAM SEIZING THE BRONZE MEDAL AT THE MEXICO OLYMPICS IN 1968.

AFTER THAT, JAPAN'S SOCCER TEAMS DIDN'T DO WELL UNTIL LATER IN THE 1970S WHEN TWO TEAMS APPEARED SHARING THE SAME GOAL OF BECOMING PROFESSIONAL. THE TWO TEAMS WERE THE YOMIURI CLUB (CURRENT VELDY KAWASAKI) AND NISSAN AUTOMOBILE (CURRENT YOKOHAMA MARINERS).

YOMIURI WAS A HEAVY DUTY EUROPEAN TYPE CLUB, WHICH TRAINED PLAYERS FROM GRADE-SCHOOL AGE. THE TEAM RULED WITH THE MEMBERS LIKE SATOSHI TSUNAMI (FORMER BELMARE), YASUTARŌ MATSUKI (FORMER COACH AT SELESSO ŌSAKA), RAMOS FROM BRAZIL, AND THE JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE, HISASHI KATŌ (FORMER COACH AT VELDY), WHO WERE RECRUITED FROM WASEDA UNIVERSITY.

MEANWHILE, NISSAN PUT SHŪ KAMO IN CHARGE AS THEIR COACH AND RECRUITED THE JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE, KAZUSHI KIMURA (FORMER MARINERS), ALTHOUGH HE WAS STILL A COLLEGE STUDENT, ALONG WITH NOBUTOSHI KANNA (CURRENT COMMENTATOR). FURTHERMORE, THEY HIRED KŌICHI HASHIRATANI (FORMER JEISOL) AND TAKASHI MIZUNUMA (FORMER MARINERS). THEIR GOAL WAS TO DEFEAT YOMIURI.

AT THE TIME, JAPAN'S REPRESENTATIVE TEAM WAS MAINLY MADE UP OF THE TWO TEAMS MENTIONED ABOVE, AND IN 1986, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COACH TAKAJI MORI (FORMER COACH AT ABISPA), THEY WORKED HARD FOR THE MEXICO WORLD CUP. THEY CONTINUED TO WIN AND MADE IT TO THE FINAL GAME AGAINST THEIR ARCH-ENEMY, KOREA. THE FINAL GAME OF HOME & AWAY AGAINST KOREA WAS TO DETERMINE WHICH TEAM WOULD BE SELECTED TO PLAY AT THE MEXICO WORLD CUP. THE FIRST GAME WAS HELD AT NATIONAL SPORTS ARENA. IT WAS UNUSUALLY FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH SPECTATORS. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, THE JAPAN TEAM LOST -- ONE TO TWO. THE JAPAN TEAM LOST AGAIN AT THE SECOND GAME THAT FOLLOWED IN SOUL -- ZERO TO ONE. THUS, THEIR EARNEST WISH (TO GO TO THE MEXICO WORLD CUP) DID NOT MATERIALIZE.

THEREAFTER, YOMIURI RECRUITED YASUTOSHI AND KAZU, THE MIURA BROTHERS. THEY ALSO TOOK KITAZAWA FROM HONDA GIKEN. NISSAN, ON THE OTHER HAND, RECRUITED TETSUJI HASHIRATANI AND KENTA HASEGAWA (CURRENT ESPAL). THUS, THESE TWO STRONG TEAMS LED JAPAN UNTIL THE J-LEAGUE OPENED

--TATSUYA WATANABE *(WINNING RUN)*

RUNCH

SUGAR?

SŌ.

PLEASE, ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES.

IT WAS MY WEAK-NESS

...THAT CAUSED IT.

TŌGO ?!

YOU D D NOTHING WRONG'

DON'T APOLOG ZE IT WAS MY FAULT

POK

POK

SSSSSSSS

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT SOCCER, NOT S NCE..

THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO W TH IT

COFFEE?

DON'T TROUBLE YOUR-SELF

LONG AGO ...

...YOU SAID THAT TO ME.

PLEASE RECONSIDER THE COACH'S POSITION AT JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH.

THIS IS FROM ME TO SŌ MATSUSHITA.

I'M HERE TO TELL YOU WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW.

I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET A NEW MEMBER TO OUR TEAM...

TŌGO.

YOU...

TSSSHHHH

AND TO MY LEG, TOO.

EVER SINCE THEN I KNEW I COULDN'T PLAY...

TSSSHHHH

"FIGHT WITHOUT RUNNING AWAY!"

REALLY?

...BUT I STILL LOVE SOCCER.

YOU KNOW I NOW COACH SOCCER TO JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS.

THIS IS THE BIRTH OF THE GOLDEN PAIR. WE'RE GOING TO WIN THIS SEASON.

WITH A SKILLED MF ASSISTING ME I CAN DO ANY-THING.

WHOOSHH

YOU'RE A DREAMER. JUST KEEP UP WITH US.

HI.
HIS NAME IS TŌGO AMAMIYA FROM SHIMITSU HIGH SCHOOL.
EVEN THE PROS WANT TO RECRUIT HIM.
WE ENDED UP GETTING HIM AFTER ALL.
HE'S THE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE'S KING SCORER
WHAT IS HE? ONLY 18, HUH?
HE'S THAT INCREDIBLE ROOKIE EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT

I PICKED THIS TEAM BECAUSE OF YOU.
SŌ MATSUSHITA. THE FAMOUS MF. NOT ONLY CAPTAIN OF SHINKAWA DENKŌ. BUT ALSO JAPAN'S REPRESENT-ATIVE TEAM.
MAYBE.
EVERYONE'S HOPING HE'LL BE A STAR, NOT ONLY FOR US, BUT FOR ALL JAPAN.
SŌ, WILL YOU LOOK AFTER HIM?

18

DON'T BLAME ME BECAUSE YOU SCREWED UP.

MY PASS WAS PERFECT. MAYBE YOU'RE NOT.

SŌ, HOW ABOUT A PROPER ASSIST NEXT TIME?

THAT WEIRD PASS... WERE YOU TRYING TO GET ME NOT TO SCORE?

SŌ'S THE BEST HE'LL EVER BE, BUT YOU'RE THE PLAYER OF TOMORROW

DON'T SWEAT IT.

WHY DOES HE THINK I'M THE ENEMY?

YOU MAKE HIM NERVOUS

HEY! TŌGO, STOP IT.

YOU, TOO YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE CAPTAIN.

I SAID IT BECAUSE I AM CAPTAIN.

EXCUSE ME ..?

RUNCHH

TŌGO DID IT!

WOOP

YAAYYYY

YEAH. HE REALLY GAVE ME THE COLD SHOULDER THAT FIRST DAY

I WAS A ROOKIE, BUT THEY STILL EXPECTED GREAT THINGS FROM ME. I KNEW I COULDN'T DISAPPOINT THEM.

IN THE LAST THREE GAMES HE'S MADE SEVEN GOALS. AND HE'S ONLY 18.

TAP TAP TAP

HEY, TŌGO.

FOR A NEWBIE, YOU'RE GREAT.

GOOD JOB, TŌGO!

EVERYONE THOUGHT I'D BE THE BIG STAR, BUT I WAS USELESS. EVEN MY BIGGEST FANS TURNED AGAINST ME.

I FAILED TO SCORE A GOAL FOR SEVEN STRAIGHT GAMES.

ROOKIES START OFF GREAT TIL THE OTHER TEAM LEARNS THEIR MOVES.

WE CAN ONLY RELY ON THE VETERANS

HE WASN'T READY.

GET HIM OFF THE TEAM!

SOCCER N

ONCE AGA NO SCORE

MISERABL

GET OUT QUI

AND I THOUGHT TŌGO HAD PROMISE

WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT

QUIT THE GAME YOU IDIOT

IT AFFECTED MY HEALTH. AND THAT MADE MY GAME EVEN WORSE. IT WAS A VICIOUS CIRCLE.

I COULDN'T SLEEP

WHY AM I SUFFERING LIKE THIS?

WHAT DO I DO?

IS IT ALL MY FAULT?

THIS IS WRONG. IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS. WHAT HAPPENED?

DAY BY DAY I GOT ANGRIER.

GRRRRR

KRA KK

YOU IDIOT!

CAN'T YOU CATCH A SIMPLE PASS?

FROM THEN ON, SŌ S PASSES BECAME HARDER TO RECEIVE

SLAP

AH

WHY DON'T YOU QUIT?

WHAT KIND OF FW ARE YOU?

I REALIZED I COULD NO LONGER SCORE THE WAY I USED TO.

BAMM

GRRRRR

IF YOU THINK IT'LL HELP YOU, GO AHEAD, STAB ME.

MAYBE. I DON'T KNOW.

YEAH, RIGHT

WHAT'S HAPPENING IS YOUR OWN PROBLEM. AND YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SOLVE IT YOURSELF.

IGNORE IT, AND IT'LL ONLY GET WORSE.

BUT IT WON'T CHANGE ANY-THING!

AND IF YOU CAN'T SOLVE IT, THEN YOU SHOULD QUIT.

OKAY. I QUIT.

FOOSH

BUT THEN YOU'RE ALWAYS RIGHT, AREN'T YOU?

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT

SŌ ...

TSSSSHHHHHH

PLEASE ... TELL ME...

TŌGO ..

YOU GOING TO USE THAT KNIFE ON ME?

WHAT DO I DO?

SHIT

SURGERY

HE WARNED THE COACH TO SLOWLY BREAK HIM IN. TO GIVE HIM TIME TO GROW

HE TRIED TO TAKE CARE OF HIM, BUT TŌGO WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

SŌ CARED ABOUT TŌGO MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.

HE ALWAYS SAID, "TŌGO'S INCREDIBLE. HE WAS GOING TO BE THE BEST."

HE'D SEEN SO MANY BRIGHT NEW STARS FAIL AND THEN DISAPPEAR. SŌ WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT WOULDN'T HAPPEN WITH TŌGO.

IS THAT TRUE?

SOB SOB

YOU HAVE TO FIGHT WITHOUT RUNNING AWAY

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SOLVE YOUR OWN PROBLEMS

YOU CALL YOURSELF AN FW?

YOU CAN'T GIVE UP!

YOU SHOULD QUIT!

AMBULANCE!

I CAN'T STOP THE BLOOD!

NOOO!

SOME-ONE! CALL FOR THE AMBULANCE!!

YOU IDIOT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SKRAAA

TŌGO ?!

THEN I LEARNED AFTER I RESIGNED FROM THE TEAM. YOU DID, TOO.

AT FIRST IT DIDN'T MEAN ANY-THING TO ME

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?

BOTH TENDONS IN MY ANKLES WERE SEVERED. I COULDN'T RUN, LET ALONE PLAY SOCCER. BUT I CAME TO UNDERSTAND MYSELF...

IT'S NOT TOO LATE, SŌ! PLEASE... YOU BELONG IN THE GAME.

BUT YOU DID NOTHING WRONG. IT WAS MY FAULT.

BECAUSE YOU FELT GUILTY... YOU LEFT SOCCER.

I SEARCHED FOR 11 YEARS.

I...

TŌGO ...

AND I BECAME SCARED OF HAVING A DEEP RELATION-SHIP ..

. WITH OTHERS THROUGH SOCCER.

I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND BEFORE.

SO I COULD FINALLY ...

... APOLOGIZE TO YOU.

MY LEGS DON'T WORK, BUT .

... HOW ...

...YOU MUST HAVE FELT.

.. ONCE I BECAME A COACH, I UNDER STOOD...

I DESTROYED MYSELF, BUT I ALSO DESTROYED YOU.

YOU WERE HARSH TO MAKE ME WORK HARDER. YOU CARED ABOUT ME...

BUT I WAS CONCEITED AND D DN'T UNDERSTAND. ALL I CARED ABOUT WAS MYSELF.

SŌ...

I...

KRIKK

IT'S NOT RAINING ANYMORE, HUH?

...A COACH ...?

ME...

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MOON...

LOOK AT ME NOW, SŌ...

MY LIFE IS GOOD ...

THE WAY YOU COACHED WAS RIGHT...

FLASH

...BUT I WANT TO SEE YOU ON THE FIELD AGAIN.

THE MOON ...

STAGE.33 Trial!

● PRIOR TO J-LEAGUE

IN 1986, A YEAR AFTER JAPAN LOST THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEXICO WORLD CUP, YASUHIKO OKUDERA, WHO PLAYED SUCCESSFULLY AS A PROFESSIONAL IN THE GERMAN BUNDES LEAGUE, RETURNED TO JAPAN. THE YEAR AFTER THAT, IT BECAME PERMISSIBLE FOR TEAMS AND PLAYERS TO FREELY SIGN CONTRACTS BETWEEN THEMSELVES, WHICH FURTHER PROMOTED THE PROFESSIONALISM OF SOCCER IN JAPAN.

HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF SPECTATORS DID NOT INCREASE. IT AVERAGED AROUND 5,000 VIEWERS PER GAME. ALTHOUGH THE PLAYERS WERE PROFESSIONALS, THE CLUBS WERE MANAGED BY AMATEURS. REALIZING THE PROBLEM, THE JAPAN SOCCER ASSOCIATION PASSED A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE EQUIVALENT IN CALIBER TO THE ONES IN EUROPE AND SOUTH AMERICA. THE RESULT WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE "PRO LEAGUE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE."

IN 1990, KAZU MIURA RETURNED FROM BRAZIL AND JOINED YOMIURI CLUB. HE WAS SELECTED AS THE JAPAN REPRESENTATIVE ALONG WITH RAMOS, WHO BECAME A NATURALIZED CITIZEN OF JAPAN. THIS FURTHER PROMOTED SOCCER IN JAPAN.

IN ADDITION, IN 1992, HANS OOFT BECAME THE FIRST FOREIGNER TO TAKE A COACH'S POSITION FOR JAPAN'S REPRESENTATIVE TEAM. THE AIM WAS TO STRENGTHEN THE TEAM SO AS TO PARTICIPATE IN USA WORLD CUP.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE START OF PROFESSIONALISM, THE OPENING OF THE J-LEAGUE, WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE HISTORY OF JAPANESE SOCCER AND ITS NEW CHALLENGE.

--TATSUYA WATANABE *(WINNING RUN)*

BUT OUR BIGGEST CHANGE IS THAT WE ALSO GOT A COACH.

EVER SINCE THE MUSASHI-NOMORI MATCH, THE TEAM'S GOTTEN NEW MEMBERS.

HI.

SHE BROUGHT IN SOUJI MATSU-SHITA

AFTER MUSASHI-NOMORI, MS. KATORI REALIZED WE NEEDED A REAL COACH TO HELP US.

I WAS WORRIED HOW HE'D TAKE IT, 'CAUSE WITHOUT A COACH HE HAD TO WORK REALLY HARD.

'COURSE, NOBODY TOLD TATSUYA, BUT HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

...

SHOOT

KRIKKK

HMM?

FEH

BLEHH

THEY'RE ANNOUNCING NEW REGULARS TODAY.

OMEN OR NOT, I'M GONNA MAKE THE TEAM.

DUMB KŌ

WHOOOSH!!

SLAM

DID I SAY SOME-THING WRONG?

GRRRRR

YOUR SHOE-LACE BROKE? IS THAT AN OMEN OR WHAT?

HEH HEH

I'M OUTTA HERE

WOOOOOOOO

MAYBE GETTING A COACH MADE A DIFFERENCE

BE THE GK AND I'LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE

YOU SAY THAT, BUT DON'T YOU KINDA LIKE BEING THE GK?

GEEZ I CAN'T TAKE THIS.

I WAS A TEMPORARY GK. AS A SA... MY TRUE POSITION IS FW

AND THANK YOU SO MUCH !!

I'LL BE HAPPY TO DO IT

SNORT

FOR SIX STRAIGHT DAYS, WHETHER YOU'RE A REGULAR OR NON-REGULAR, WE'LL HOLD RED VS. WHITE MATCHES.

STILL, JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH'S TEAM BEGAN WORKING WITH COACH MATSUSHITA.

FIRST, TAKE THE POSITION YOU PREFER THEN PLAY THE GAME.

BEFORE I RE-ORGANIZE THE TEAM, I WANT TO KNOW EACH OF YOUR ABILITIES

. OR MAYBE EVERYONE FEELS IF THEY TRY HARD ENOUGH, THEY MIGHT BECOME REGULARS THEMSELVES

OR MAYBE EVERYONE IS WORRIED IF THEY RELAX THEY'LL LOSE THEIR POSITION

OKAY YOU'RE THE GK FOR THE WHITE TEAM SHIGEKI, WILL YOU BE THE GK FOR THE RED TEAM?

DAICHI FUNA. EIGHTH GRADE

ONLY ONE PERSON ER, WHO'RE YOU?

DAICHI THINKS ABOUT NOTHING BUT THE GK POSITION

WHOOM

SO, WHO WANTS TO BE GK?

AFTER-WARD I'LL HAVE YOU TRY POSITIONS YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE PLAYED BEFORE

EVERYONE PLAYED EARNESTLY, AND...

..BUT EVERY-ONE WAS TENSE DURING THE GAME

READ THIS WAY

WE'VE GOT TO BE THE BEST FWS WE CAN BE.

...WE'RE THE ONLY FWS.

...AND THAT MEANS ~

WHICH WILL MAKE SHIGE THE ONLY OFFICIAL GK. .

BASED ON LAST WEEK'S GAME, DA CHI CAN'T HANDLE GK YET

EVEN IF THIS TIME I DON'T MAKE IT AS A REGULAR, IT WON'T BE THE END OF EVERY-THING.

I'LL WORK HARD TO SEIZE THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY!

YEAH

SEE YOU.

OKAY I'LL SEE YA LATER.

FOR SOME REASON, I FEEL GREAT TODAY

MY THREE-DAY-CONSTIPATION IS OVER, TOO! SOMETHING GOOD'S GOING TO HAPPEN TODAY.

WELL, TO BE HONEST I'M NOT THAT CONFIDENT ...

DON'T WORRY!

YOU SOUND LIKE YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT.

I WONDER WHAT MY FATE IS GOING TO BE.

...THE WEEK PASSED QUICKLY. AFTER THOROUGH CONSIDERATION, THE RESULTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

HEY, SHŌ.

I HAVEN'T BEEN THIS TENSE SINCE I WAITED FOR THE ENTRANCE EXAM RESULTS TO MUSASHI-NOMORI..

I DID EVERY-THING I COULD.. THE REST SHOULD BE LEFT TO FATE.

YEAH. IT'S TODAY.

YEAH.

WELL, I'M PRETTY SCARED ...

MAN, YOU SCARED ME, MASATO.

IF YOU WANT TO CHOOSE THE TWO BEST..

...PICK SHIGEKI. HE'S TALL AND HAS AN INCREDIBLE SENSE OF SOCCER...

OR YOU COULD CHOOSE

...

ER, MS. KATORI TOLD ME YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT SOCCER.

WHAT?

HE'S STILL DEVELOPING, BUT HE REALLY SEES THE FIELD WELL.

MASATO AND SHŌ HAVE SIMILAR STYLES... BUT IF I HAD TO CHOOSE ONE, I'D PICK SHŌ.

...SOMEONE VERY DIFFERENT FROM SHIGEKI. SOMEONE VERSATILE

MASATO'S BEEN WITH THE TEAM FOR SO LONG. I'M NOT CAPABLE OF LETTING HIM DOWN YET

YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT

..BUT HE'S NOT AS GOOD AS THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY POSITIONED IN THE MIDDLE FIELD.

MASATO IS FAST AND HAS STAMINA, BUT HE'S NOT ALWAYS AWARE OF WHAT'S AROUND HIM. I THINK HE'D BE BETTER AS WING BACK OR SIDE BACK.

AND AFTER SCHOOL

WHY? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE CHOSEN.

URRGH, I'M NERVOUS.

TATSUYA'S USUALLY OUR DIRECTOR.

WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN TATSUYA AND THE COACH?

IT'S GETTING LATE..

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN THINGS GET SO ANGRY

IT'S OKAY TO BE UPSET, BUT.

WANNA FIGHT?

WHAT?

GK Daichi Fuwa
FW Shigeki Satō
FW Shō Kazamatsuri
DF Ta
DF Ko
DF Ha
mi Kaoru
ALL.
WHOAA.
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
SOCCER TEAM
THEY'RE COMING OUT!
SUB-STITUTES ARE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM AFTER
NO MATTER WHO'RE CHOSEN, NO GRUDGES.
THIS IS
FW Shigeki Sa
FW Shō Kazamats
MF Tatsuya Mizu
uke Morina
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
WOW...
FW Shigeki Satō
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
AND?
PARDON MY IMPERTINENCE, BUT I'VE SEEN THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN COACHING THE TEAM.
YOU'RE DOING A GOOD JOB.
IN MY OPINION...
BUT, I...
BELIEVE IN HIM.
I HOPE MASATO WILL BE OKAY
ALL RIGHT
HE'LL BE DEPRESSED. HE'S EMOTIONAL, WHICH IS BOTH HIS STRENGTH AND WEAK-NESS
THANK YOU.

MASATO ...

BO

BONK

THIS IS SO NOT COOL.

...

WHAT'S HE DOING?

NO IDEA.

HISS HISS HISS

WAK

WUNK

BONK

...

I'M PLAYING TOO! YAY!

I DID IT!

M-M-MASA-TO.

AH!

WE CAN'T LET OUR PERSONAL FEELINGS GET IN THE WAY OF WINNING.

I UNDER-STAND THIS IS ALL ABOUT THE GAME

UMM. I JUST REMEMBERED. I'M SUPPOSED TO HELP OUT AT THE STORE TODAY.

MY FATHER'S BACK WENT OUT.

I GOTTA GO NOW BYE

DON'T MAKE SUCH A FACE!

I'M FINE. REALLY.

MASATO.

THIS ISN'T GOOD.

MY GOODNESS!

GEEZ! I'M OUT?

HA HA HA

HUH

SOB

NUTS!!!

NUTS!

NUTS!

NUTS!

IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS.

HE'S ACTING LIKE IT DIDN'T BOTHER HIM...

RETREAT STARTS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW IF HE DOESN'T SHOW UP

...

HE MIGHT QUIT WITHOUT EVER COMING BACK..

. BUT I KNOW IT WAS A SHOCK

THUMP

RRRRR

PENALT

PATHETIC! ARE YOU STILL A MAN?

I WENT TO YOUR HOME. I WAS TOLD YOU MIGHT BE HERE ...

SHŌ?!

I SAID YOU'RE PATHETIC! COMPLAINING BECAUSE YOU LOST A POSITION AS A REGULAR?

WHAT D.D YOU SAY?

SHŌ, I'M NOT THAT GOOD.

YOU CAN'T YOU CAN'T QUIT IF YOU WORK HARD I'M SURE THERE'LL BE A CHANCE TO.

I QUIT SOCCER!

MASATO ...

THEN YOU'RE A WRETCHED, MISERABLE FAILURE.

I'M QUITTING SOCCER.

WELL IF YOU CAME FOR ME, YOU'RE TOO LATE

YOUR CLOTHING ...? YOU'RE THE MYSTERY PLAYER?

MASATO

MASATO

YOU KNOW, WE'RE SO DIFFER-ENT

I'M NOT AS STRONG AS YOU.

PENALTY

READ THIS WAY

!!

YUKI?

THIS CAN'T BE.

NOW DO YOU UNDER-STAND HOW I FEEL?

DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I RESENT THAT I CAN'T DO WHAT I WANT JUST BECALSE I'M A GIRL?

YUKI?

HOW ...? WHY?

WHOOP

I HATE CRY-BABIES.

STAGE.34

Be True To Yourself

IN FRONT KICK
It's a kick that sends out a high and long pass. It is perfect for adding variations like spin/curve, and therefore, it is often used for centering, corner kick as well as free kick.

UNLIKE ME, YOU CAN WORK HARDER. YOU COULD EVEN GET RESULTS.

CAN YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL?

DO YOU KNOW THE RESENTMENT I FEEL BECAUSE I'M NOT ALLOWED TO PLAY SOCCER THE WAY I WANT JUST BECAUSE I'M A GIRL?

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HURT I WAS.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL.

GRRRRR

MASATO, DOES SOCCER MEAN ...

...SO LITTLE TO YOU?

AND YOU'RE SAYING BECAUSE YOU LOST YOUR POSITION AS A REGULAR JUST ONCE YOU WANT TO QUIT SOCCER?

BUT YUKI ...

ENALTY

PENALTY

MAKING YOU A SUB-STITUTE AGAIN WAS INEVIT-ABLE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE REAL ZED THAT INSTEAD OF GETTING ALL DEPRESSED.

...NOT BECAUSE OF YOUR BRILLIANT PLAY.

YOU WERE ONLY SELECTED AS A REGULAR BECAUSE THE TEAM DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH PLAYERS ..

...IDIOTS I DEFEATED? ALL THEY CARED ABOUT WAS LOOKING COOL AND ATTRACTING GIRLS.

ARE YOU ANY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE ..

SOON AS YOU DON'T LOOK COOL, YOU JUST WANT TO QUIT.

SWAP

GRAB

YOU SHUT UP!

JUST SHUT UP!

STOP IT.

IT'S MORE LIKE RUNNING AWAY.

HURT?

!

YUKI ...

HOW DARE YOU!

PAT

WHEN DID YOU BECOME GOOD ENOUGH TO COMPLA N?

BESIDES, YOU USED TO BE A SUB-STITUTE.

PAT

YOU NEED TO PLAY AT LEAST 10 YEARS BEFORE YOU KNOW IF YOU'RE NO GOOD.

ARE YOU MAKING MASATO ANGRY ON PURPOSE?

PAK

SNIP

...
STUPID PRIDE THEN!

FINE.

WHOOSH

LET ME DESTROY YOUR...

HEY, C'MON YOU TWO

I'M NOT GONNA HOLD BACK CAUSE YOU'RE A GIRL

WELL...

YUKI IS...

OF COURSE

...SO NOT COOL RIGHT NOW!

YOU ARE TOTALLY ...

PENALTY

NNNOOO!!

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO GOOD? THEN TAKE ME ON.

LET ME SEE HOW YOU PERFORM, HUH?!

I WON'T REMAIN QUIET AFTER WHAT YOU SAID!

PENALTY

I I DON'T LIKE T.

SHE CONTROLS THE BALL LIKE IT'S A PART OF HER.

BUT SHE S MUCH BETTER THAN ME

..WATCH THE GAME THEN.

I'LL JUST...

WHUSSHHH

NUTS!

WHAT KINDA GIRL IS SHE?

...STEAL THE BALL FROM ME!

FOOM

FOOM

PAP

IF / YOU WANT ME TO APOLOGIZE ...

HAVE YOU GIVEN UP ALREADY?

SLOWING DOWN, MASATO?

GRRRRR

YOU'RE PATHETIC, MASATO

I'M SO NOT COOL

I AM AWFUL

SHE WAS RIGHT.

I'M PATHETIC. I CAN'T STAND MYSELF.

I KEEP LOSING TO HER AND I CAN'T EVEN STEAL THE BALL ONCE.

RROOOSHHH

THWIP

BAMM

WHOOSHHH

ONCE... LET ME STEAL THE BALL JUST ONCE.

I'M NOT MISERABLE! I'M A GIRL.

BLEHHH

YOU MISER-ABLE...

I'LL STEAL IT... NO MATTER WHAT!

FOSH

YUKI...

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE!

UNNNNNN

NUTS.

THUMP

OWWW!

FISSHHH

!

PENALTY

SKRUKKK

PAM

!

TOO

PAT

PAT

PAT

TY

I'M GONNA STEAL IT!!

...YOU ARE COOL.

AND RIGHT NOW...

YUKI...

YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD, TOO.

DO YOU STILL WANT TO QUIT SOCCER?

I HAVE A QUESTION I WANT TO ASK, MASATO.

HUH?

OH NO, IT'S ME. ER...

I'M SORRY FOR SAYING THOSE TERRIBLE THINGS

I STOLE IT MYSELF ...

I STOLE IT!

PENALTY

YAHHH

MASATO!

BUT FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME WHO DESPERATELY WANTS TO PLAY IT'S A BURDEN

HEY JUST KIDDING SOMETIMES IT'S CONVENIENT TO TALK LIKE A GIRL

HUH I'M SO SORRY I JUST WANTED TO STEAL IT I DIDN'T NOTICE

ARE YOU OKAY?

UNNHHH

PENALTY

I'M SORRY I CALLED YOU PATHETIC

HUH?

PENALTY

HOW DARE YOU KICK A GIRL'S FACE!

READ THIS WAY

I WANTED TO WORK WITH YOU GUYS.

IF I DIDN'T LIKE IT I WOULDN'T HAVE BECOME YOUR MANAGER!

THEN YOU DON'T LIKE OUR TEAM ANYMORE?

. I DON'T THINK I CAN CONTINUE BEING THE MANAGER

WELL, ONCE EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT ME..

MAYBE NOT AS A MANAGER, BUT AS A PLAYER.

SO...

...LET'S DO IT TOGETHER.

I REALLY LOVE PLAYING SOCCER.

IT WAS SO MUCH FUN GOING AFTER THE BALL.

N-NO.

THEN IT WAS WORTH INTERFERING.

GOOD.

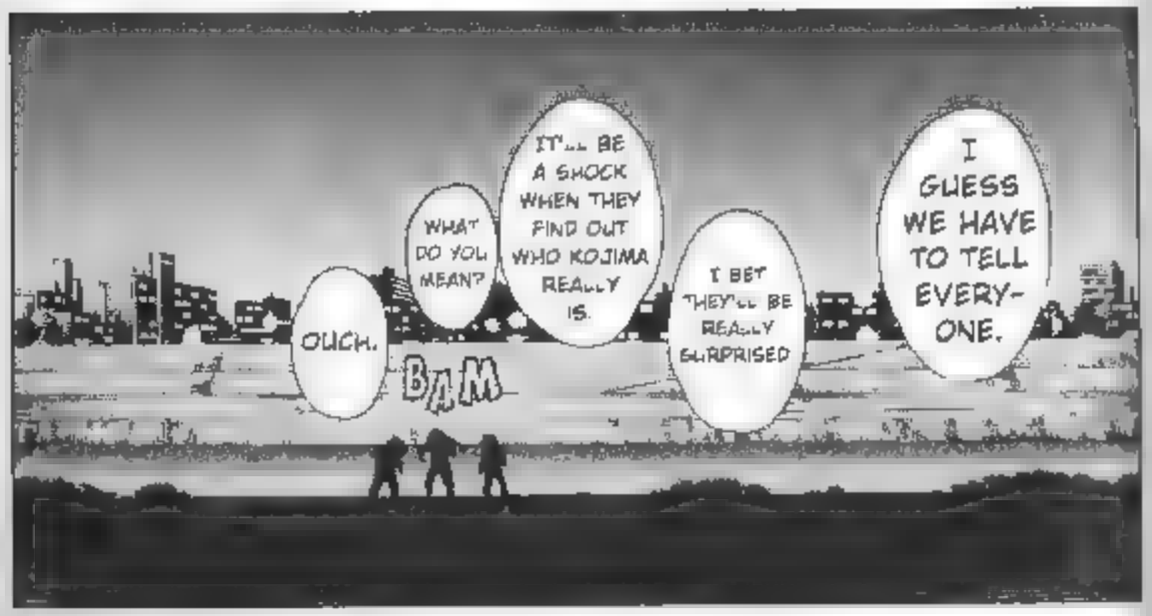
ARE YOU THINKING OF QUITTING?

YUKI ...

YUK ...

BYE, THEN.

READ THIS WAY


OUCH.
BAM
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT'LL BE A SHOCK WHEN THEY FIND OUT WHO KOJIMA REALLY IS.
I BET THEY'LL BE REALLY SURPRISED
I GUESS WE HAVE TO TELL EVERY-ONE.

NOT WITH A GIRL NAMED YUKI KOJIMA, BUT...
...WITH A PLAYER NAMED YUKI KOJIMA WHO LOVES SOCCER AND CAN'T STAND NOT PLAYING IT...
...TOGETHER...
THAT'S WHO I WANT TO PLAY WITH.

STAGE.35 Training Camp For Each!

● WOMEN'S SOCCER

THE HISTORY OF WOMEN'S SOCCER IS VERY SHORT. IT WAS 1979 WHEN THE SOCCER ASSOCIATION OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED THEIR REGISTRATION. ONLY 52 TEAMS REGISTERED, AND IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR, 1980, THE FIRST ALL JAPAN WOMEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP WAS HELD.

LATER ON, IN 1989, JAPAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE (L-LEAGUE) WAS ESTABLISHED WITH SIX TEAMS. THIS WAS THE COUNTERPART TO THE MEN'S JAPAN LEAGUE.

FURTHERMORE, JAPAN THE REPRESENTATIVE TEAM WAS FORMED, AND IT BECAME THE THIRD BEST, AFTER CHINA AND TAIWAN. DURING THE BEIJING ASIA CHAMPIONSHIP IN 1990, THE JAPAN TEAM DEFEATED TAIWAN AND BECAME THE SECOND BEST IN ASIA. IN 1991, THE FIRST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WAS HELD IN CHINA, AND THE JAPAN TEAM PASSED THE ASIA PRIMARY, THUS SUCCESSFULLY SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY IN THE WORLD'S ARENA BEFORE THE MEN'S TEAM DID. ALTHOUGH THE TEAM DID NOT WIN ONCE AND HAD TO RETIRE FROM THE PRIMARY LEAGUE DURING THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, FOUR YEARS LATER, THE JAPAN TEAM DEFEATED BRAZIL DURING THE SECOND CHAMPIONSHIP HELD IN SWEDEN AND MADE IT TO THE BEST EIGHT.

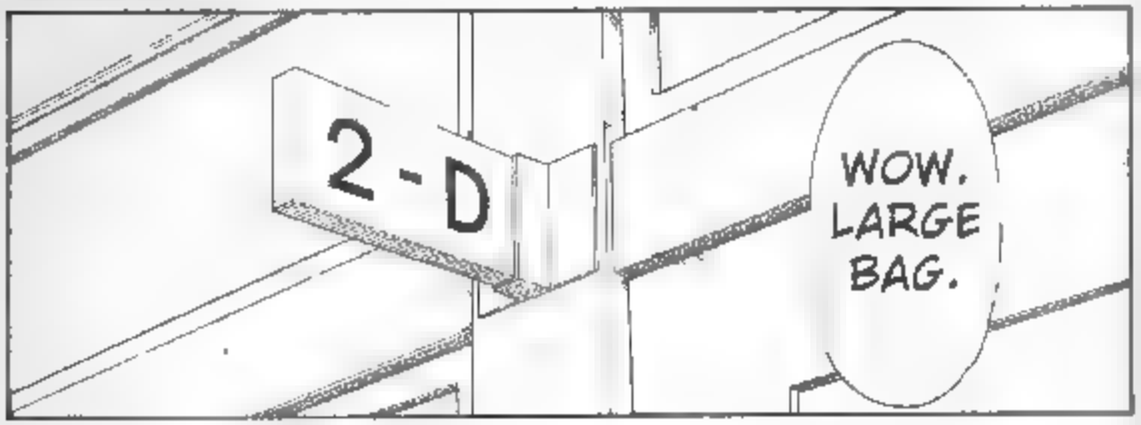
CURRENTLY, THERE ARE MORE THAN A THOUSAND REGISTERED TEAMS AND MORE THAN 20,000 REGISTERED PLAYERS. THE WOMEN'S SOCCER POPULATION IS CLEARLY INCREASING. HOWEVER, THERE AREN'T ENOUGH SPECTATORS FOR THEIR GAMES, AND COUPLED WITH JAPAN'S TERRIBLE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, MANY OF THE L-LEAGUE TEAMS ARE DISBANDING. DESPITE THAT, IN 1999, THE THIRD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BE HELD IN THE U.S.A., AND IN 2000, THE SYDNEY OLYMPICS WILL BE HELD. JAPAN'S REPRESENTATIVE TEAM OF WOMEN'S SOCCER IS STILL WORKING HARD, AIMING FOR HIGHER GOALS THAN THE MEN'S.

--TATSUYA WATANABE *(WINNING RUN)*

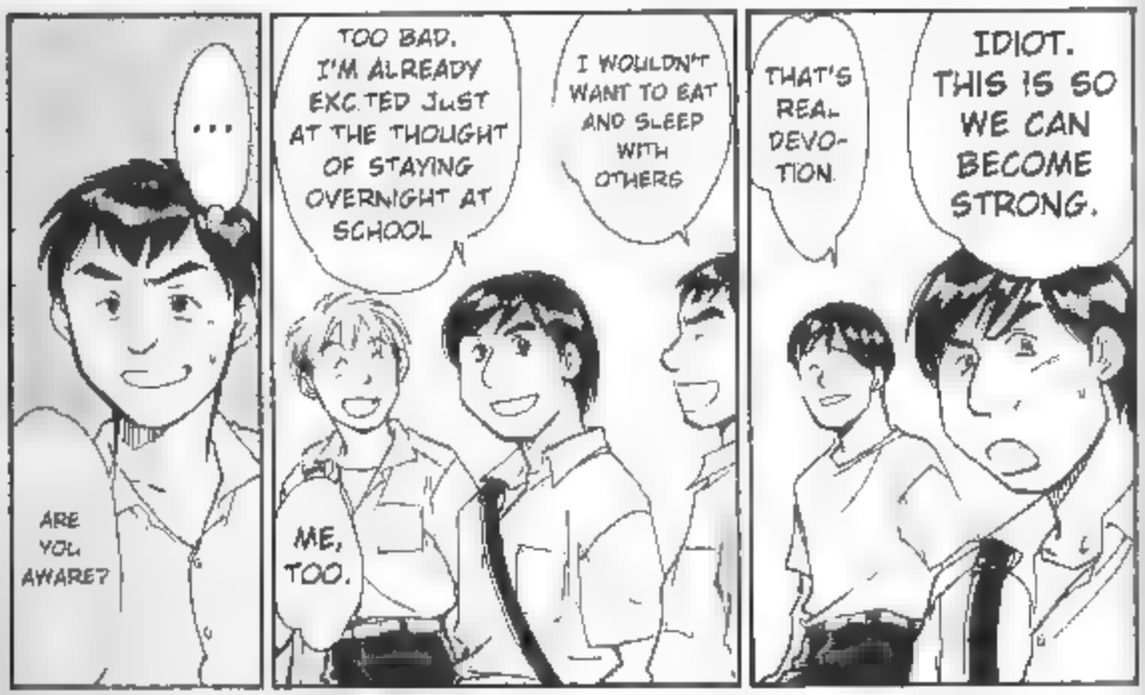
STAGE.35

Training Camp For Each!

READ THIS WAY



FOR SUCH A WEAK SOCCER TEAM?
A RETREAT AT SCHOOL?!
WE'RE HAVING A SCHOOL RETREAT STARTING TODAY FOR THREE NIGHTS AND FOUR DAYS.
WHAT'S GOING ON?


...
ARE YOU AWARE?
TOO BAD. I'M ALREADY EXCITED JUST AT THE THOUGHT OF STAYING OVERNIGHT AT SCHOOL
ME, TOO.
I WOULDN'T WANT TO EAT AND SLEEP WITH OTHERS
THAT'S REAL DEVOTION.
IDIOT. THIS IS SO WE CAN BECOME STRONG.

WHISSHHH

YOU'VE ALREADY STARTED THE TRAINING SESSION?

FOUR VS. FOUR MINI-GAME.

OH, WELL.

THAT LONG-HAIRED GUY'S GOOD.

WATCH IT!

!

!

...GHOSTS.

OUR SCHOOL IS SUPPOSED TO BE POSSESSED BY...

WHATEVER!

YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF POLTER-GEIST?

POL-TER WHAT?

SOUNDS LIKE POLTER-GEIST!

...AND TO TOP IT OFF, ALL THE DESKS AND CHAIRS INSIDE THE CLASSROOMS ARE MOVED TO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS!

AND YOU'RE ALSO SUPPOSED TO HEAR A WOMAN SOBBING AT NIGHT.

I'VE HEARD THE GHOST OF A MALE STUDENT WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE SHOWS UP.

HEH

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

TALKING ABOUT WHAT'S SCARY

WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO LEARN IS REALLY SCARY...

WELL, YOU KNOW, I KIND OF BELIEVE IN THINGS LIKE THAT

I HATE SCARY STUFF.

THEY'RE JUST JEALOUS SO THEY'RE MAKING UP STORIES.

RUHHHH

!

SHŌ, WHEN YOU FOCUS ON THE GOAL ...

...YOU FORGET WHERE YOUR LEGS ARE.

!

I DON'T REMEMBER HIM.

YOU'LL SEE.

...SHOW ITSELF DURING THE GAME.

BUT, EVEN IF YOU CAN'T, THE EFFORT YOU PUT TO REACH THAT GOAL WILL...

THE IDEAL GOAL IS TO REACH YOUR OBJECTIVE IN THE NEXT FOUR DAYS.

ANY QUES-TIONS?

I'LL ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS AND HELP YOU LEARN THE BEST I CAN.

I'LL BE STAYING HERE WITH YOU, SO FEEL FREE TO SEE ME FOR ANY ADVICE

I'M SURE YOU'VE GOT A HANDFUL OF OTHER CLASSES AND TRAINING BUT LET'S DO OUR BEST

HMM...

OH, SORRY ABOUT THAT I FORGOT TO MENTION

HMM..

A MOMENT AGO I

...SAW YUKI PLAYING ...

YAHHHHHHH

TAP

YUKI ...

THERE ARE ONLY A FEW WEEKS LEFT BEFORE THE SUMMER SEASON'S OFFICIAL CHAMPION-SHIP.

WHETHER YOU'RE CHOSEN AS A REGULAR OR NOT...

I WANT EACH OF YOU TO KEEP YOUR OWN OBJECTIVE IN MIND TO HAVE A BETTER RETREAT.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS RETREAT IS TO UP THE LEVEL OF THE TEAM.

BY UPPING EACH OF YOUR LEVELS, THE TEAM'S OVERALL LEVEL WILL BE INCREASED.

...WITH ME?

YOU...

...DON'T WANT TO PLAY SOCCER...

SHE LOOKS CUTE. BUT SHE'S REALLY A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

DECEIVER.

DEVIL

IT'S TIRING TO ACT SO CUTESY BUT YOU'VE GOT TO USE IT THE RIGHT WAY

GUYS ARE SO SIMPLE MINDED.

HEH

LET'S WORK HARD! OK!

HEY, NO PROBLEM. IT'S FINE. WHY NOT?

HUH

IF SHE WANTS TO BE A PLAYER, SHE'S GOING TO FIND MANY DIFFICULTIES.

IT WON'T BE EASY EVEN IF WE DON'T MIND. EVERYONE ELSE COULD

YOU'RE RIGHT.

BUT, SHE'S CHOSEN THAT PATH AND WE HAVE TO RESPECT HER WISHES THE BEST WE CAN.

GAB GAB GAB

WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE LIKE WITH A GIRL ON THE SOCCER TEAM?

WHAT?

I KNOW SHE'S A GIRL, BUT I THINK YOU WILL LEARN A LOT FROM HER TECHNIQUE.

SHE'S JOINING THE TRAINING SESSION AS A PLAYER.

IN TERMS OF THE OFFICIAL RULES, THERE SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM. THERE'S NO ARTICLE THAT STATES "GIRLS ARE NOT ALLOWED."

BUT

I NEVER HEARD OF A SOCCER TEAM WITH GIRLS IS IT ALLOWED FOR HER TO PLAY?

MY OLDER SISTER IS AT A GIRLS SCHOOL THEY'VE GOT A SOCCER TEAM THERE

BUT THIS SN'T KID'S PLAY

I PLAYED WITH GIRLS IN GRADE SCHOOL

YOU KNOW ABOUT THE L- LEAGUE DON'T YOU?

A GIRL PLAYING SOCCER?

THE L-LEAGUE IS JAPAN'S SOCCER LEAGUE FOR WOMEN. THIS YEAR'S THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH HAVING A GIRL?

WE NEED TO TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY

OH, THEY'RE TOTALLY CONFUSED?

I THINK HE KNEW THE TRUTH ABOUT YUKI.

SHIGE WASN'T BOTHERED AT ALL

YEAH, BUT WILL WE THINK OF HER AS A PLAYER AND NOT A GIRL?

BUZZ

BUZZ

BUZZ

EVERY-ONE!

KNOCK IT OFF

POW

A LITTLE CHILD CAN'T SEE THE PROBLEM.

WHOOO

I COULDN'T DO ANY-THING ELSE TO HELP YOU

MS. KATORI, YOU COOKED THIS?

FEED ME!

I'M STARVING!

BLOBBLLEE

Today's Menu

Mizutaki

("MIZUTAKI" IS A DISH WHERE VEGETABLES AND MEAT ARE THROWN INTO HOT WATER.)

EAT UP EVERY-ONE. ♡

WHAT? A HOT-POT ON A HOT DAY LIKE THIS?

INCREDIBLE

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE NOT COMPLAIN-ING.

SOB I MISS MY MOTHER'S COOKING

YUCHH IT'S AWFUL

SOB SOB

DON'T COMPLAIN. JUST EAT!

OH YOU DON'T KNOW THE DISH CALLED "MIZUTAKI"?

WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?

IT'S LOOKS MORE LIKE A MIGH-MASH.

THIS STINKS.

1 THAT'S NOT WHAT I EXPECTED TO HEAR.

HA!

UH, IT NEEDS MORE SALT.

SLIP

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU SAY JUST SAY SOME-THING

HUH ?

MS KATORI WANTS TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK, PUP

SO, HOW DOES IT TASTE ?

YEP!

RIGHT O!

...THE THREE NIGHTS AND FOUR DAY RETREAT BEGAN.

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME SCRAMB-LING...

FOLLOWING THE TRAINING SCHEDULE ESTABLISHED BY COACH MATSUSHITA, WE WERE DIVIDED INTO SEPARATE PRACTICE GROUPS.

DINNER'S READY, EVERY-ONE!

HOMEMAKING ROOM[1]

ON DAY ONE, THE TRAINING STARTED AFTER CLASS. I FELT LIKE IT ENDED IN NO TIME.

HE WATCHED AS WE PRACTICED AND POINTED OUT EACH OF OUR PROBLEMS.

RESOLVING THESE PROBLEMS WAS OUR MAJOR OBJECTIVE

SHIGEKI, YOU'RE A POWERFUL FW WHO CAN HANDLE PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING. I WANT YOU TO USE YOUR HEIGHT AND DO THE POST PLAY

POST PLAY IS WHERE A PLAYER STAYS UP FRONT AND RECEIVES THE BALL FROM A TEAMMATE. HE THEN PASSES IT TO ANOTHER TEAMMATE OR SHOOTS DIRECTLY TO THE GOAL

MEANWHILE, SHŌ, YOU'RE SHORT BUT VERY FAST. I WANT YOU TO CREATE YOUR OWN SPACE BY SCRAMBLING THE OPPONENT SO YOU CAN RECEIVE THE BALL TO SCORE.

THE REASON WHY YOU ARE CHOSEN AS THE TOPS IS BECAUSE . . .

...YOU TWO ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT KINDS OF FWs

AND IT WILL HELP TATSUYA MAKE BETTER MOVES.

BUT ONCE YOU TWO FUNCTION TOGETHER, THAT WILL ALLOW US MANY ATTACKS.

UP UNTIL NOW, JOSUI'S OFFENSIVE PATTERN WAS SIMPLE.

STOP!

OH, THAT?

I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHAT HE MEANS BY "GETTING TO THE SPACE," BUT...

..WHEN I ACTUALLY TRY IT, ALL I CAN DO IS TO GO AFTER THE BALL

SHŌ SHOULD LEARN HOW TO FIND AND REACH THE SPACE.

STUDYING WITH VIDEO

ESCAPEES ARE OUT BUYING SOME REAL FOOD

WE BORROWED A STRAW MAT FLOOR FROM THE JUDO STUDIO TO SET UP OUR FUTON.

!

I'M JUST THINKING ABOUT MY OBJECTIVE

I'M TOO EXCITED.

YOU GONNA SLEEP?

WHISK

zzzzzzzzzz

!

WHOOOSHH

UNHH

GOTTA GO.

!

KLIK

POOF

I NEED TO THINK IT OVER AND OVER.

...I'LL HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO DO IT RIGHT.

ONCE I FIGURE IT OUT ...

SORRY.

IT'S EASIER TO BE TOLD, BUT I WON'T ACTUALLY LEARN WHAT TO DO.

DON'T GO TOO CRAZY.

...

GOOD NIGHT

GOOD NIGHT

HUHH HUHH

PAT PAT PAT

SHŌ!

HHOOOOOGH

FWIP

FWOOB

?

BOOM

...I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO PAST THE MOVING DFs.

...IF I CAN'T AVOID FIXED OBJECTS...

SKRASHHH

!

GOT IT.

OWWCHH

HMM. NOT BAD.

WHOOSHH

PAT

PAT

PAT

AH.

POMP

HUFF

I KNOW IT'S PROBABLY USELESS TO PRACTICE AGAINST THESE FIXED DESKS AND CHAIRS...

IF ANYONE'S WATCHING THEY PROBABLY THINK I'M CRAZY

PUFF

BUT ...

BUT HE'S WORKING WITH OPPONENTS THAT DON'T MOVE.

HE'S TRYING TO AVOID THEM TO GET TO THE SPACE WHERE THE BALL LANDS AS FAST AS HE CAN.

THE DESKS AND CHAIRS ARE THE OPPOSING DFs.

THIS RETREAT IS GOING TO BE A LOT OF FUN.

I'M BETTING NO ONE GAVE HIM THAT IDEA.

VERY INTER-ESTING.

CHIRP

CHIRP

OOPS.

YOU MUST'VE IMAGINED IT.

I'M TELLING YOU, THE POLTERGEIST WERE HERE! THE DESKS AND CHAIRS WERE SCATTERED ALL OVER THE GROUNDS, BUT THEY DISAPPEARED BY MORNING.

G'MORNING.

... I CAN'T REACH THE BALL IN TIME.

IT'S TOO EASY TO CRASH ON THE SHORTEST ROUTE.

BUT IF IT TAKES LONGER...

WHEN MY MIND'S ON THE BALL, I'M LOUSY AT AVOIDING OBSTACLES.

BUT WHEN I FOCUS ON AVOIDING THE OBSTACLES, IT TAKES ME LONGER...

NUTS!

CAN'T LET MYSELF GET CONFUSED.

I HAVE TO KEEP EVERY-THING IN MIND...

...IT WILL BE CLEARLY HIS.

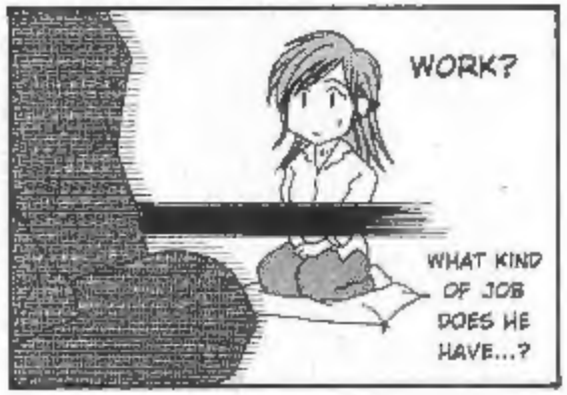
THE IDEA ISN'T HALF BAD. IF HE FINDS THE SPACE FASTER THAN ANYONE ELSE ...

FASCINATING. THE FIXED DESKS AND CHAIRS AREN'T THE OPPOSING DFs. THEY'D COME TO MARK, SO THE SPACE WOULD DISAPPEAR IMMEDIATELY ...

AGAIN!

Mystery of the Dry Riverbed – Part 2

Mysterious Man



Mystery of the Dry Riverbed – Part 1

SMALL WHISTLE! THEATRE !!

MANGA BY **SEKI**, ASSISTANT S

PERSONAL DATA	
BIRTHDAY:	OCT. 24th, 1961
SIZE:	182 cm 73 kg
BLOOD TYPE:	O
FAVORITE FOOD:	SOY MILK, ODEN
WHAT HE DISLIKES:	BUTTERFLIES
HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS:	CROSSWORD PUZZLES, BEING SARCASTIC

SOUJŌ MATSUSHITA

TŌGO AMAMIYA

PERSONAL DATA	
BIRTHDAY:	NOV. 7, 1969
SIZE:	177 cm 69 kg
BLOOD TYPE:	AB
FAVORITE FOOD:	KINPIRA RICE BURGER AT MOSS BURGER
WHAT HE DISLIKES:	EEL
HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS:	KARAOKE, MAKING A DELICIOUS CUP OF COFFEE

DAICHI FUWA

DAISUKE NOTE

PERSONAL DATA	
BIRTHDAY:	DEC. 31, 1984
SIZE:	174 cm 60 kg
BLOOD TYPE:	AB
FAVORITE FOOD:	DOESN'T KNOW
WHAT HE DISLIKES:	ANYTHING THAT CANNOT BE EXPLAINED SCIENTIFICALLY
HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS:	ACTIVITY OF DESTRUCTION

PERSONAL DATA	
BIRTHDAY:	APRIL 1st, 1985
SIZE:	155 cm 41 kg
BLOOD TYPE:	B
FAVORITE FOOD:	SHRIMP
WHAT SHE DISLIKES:	SILLY BRAIN-DEAD GIRLS
HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS:	SOCCER, DRIBBLE

YUKI KOJIMA

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Next in Whistle!

PURE SOUL

Soccer is a team sport and that means Shô must work twice as hard to be the best teammate he can be. No matter how hard (and long) he practices, he still needs the support of 10 other players to score a single goal.

One player, however, has vowed to single-handedly crush the upstarts at Josui Junior High. His name is Ryoichi Tenjo and he is easily the best soccer player Shô has ever seen. Nobody has been able to stop Ryoichi in the past. Now, it's up to Team Josui to teach the hotheaded harrier a lesson in humility.

Available May 2005!